Serfojee Rhajah 1817

THE

ADVENTURES

OF

RODERIC RANDOM

By T. SMOLLETT, M. D.

With the Life of the Author.

Et genus et Virtus, nisi cum re, vilior alga est.
Hor.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

Vol. II.

THE TANJORE MAHARAJA SERFOJI'S SARASWATI MAHAL

GOTHA
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CHAP. XXIV.

I am reduced to great Misery — Assaulted on Tower-hill by a Press-gang, who put me on board a Tender — My Usage there — My Arrival on board of the Thunder Man of War, where I am but in Irons, and afterwards released by the good Offices of Mr. Thomson, who recommends me as Assistant to the Surgeon — He relates his own Story, and makes me acquainted with the Characters of the Captain, Surgeon, and First Mate.

I applauded the resolution of Miss Williams, who, a few days after, was hired in quality of barkeeper, by one of the ladies who had witnessed in her behalf at the Marshalsea; and who since that time had got credit with a wine merchant, whose favourite she was, to set up a convenient house of her own. — Thither my fellow lodger repaired, after having taken leave of me with a torrent of tears, and a thousand protestations of eternal gratitude; assuring me she would remain in this situation no longer than she should pick up money sufficient to put her other design in execution.

As for my own part, I saw no resource but the army or navy, between which I hesitated so long. that I found myself reduced to a starving condition. — My spirit began to accommodate itself to my beggarly fate, and I became so mean as to go down towards Wapping, with an intention to enquire for an old school-fellow, who (I understood) had got the command of a small coasting vessel, then in the river, and implore his assistance. — but my destiny prevented this abject piece of behaviour; for as I crossed Tower-wharf, a squat tawny fellow, with a hanger by his side, and a cudgel in his hand, came up to me, calling, „Yo, ho, brother, you must come along with me." — As I did not like his appearance, instead of answering his salutation, I quickened my pace, in hopes of ridding myself of his company; upon which he whistled aloud, and immediately another sailor appeared before me, who laid hold of me by the collar, and began to drag me along. — Not being of a humour to relish such treatment, I disengaged myself of the assailant, and, with one blow of my cudgel, laid him motionlefs on the ground; and perceiving myself surrounded in a trice, by ten or a dozen more, exerted myself with such dexterity and succefs, that

some of my opponents were fain to attack me with drawn cutlasses; and after an obstinate engagement, in which I received a large wound on my head, and another on my left cheek, I was disarmed, taken prisoner, and carried on board a pressing-tender; where, after being pinioned like a malefactor, I was thrust down into the hold, among a parcel of miserable wretches, the sight of whom well nigh distracted me. — As the commanding officer had not humanity enough to order my wounds to be dressed, and I could not use my own hands, I desired one of my fellow captives who was unfettered, to take a handkerchief out of my pocket, and tie it round my head to stop the bleeding. He pulled out my handkerchief ('tis true) but instead of applying it to the use for which I designed it, went to the grating of the hatchway, and with astonishing composure, sold it before my face to a bum-boat-woman *), then on board, for a quart of gin, with which he treated my companions, regardleſs of my circumstances and entreaties.

*) A bum-boat-woman is one who sells bread, cheese, greens, liquor, and fresh provisions to the sailors, in a small boat that lies along-side the ship.

I complained bitterly of this robbery to the midshipman on deck, telling him, at the same time, that unleſs my hurts were dressed, I should bleed to death. But compassion was a weakneſs of which no man could justly accuse this person, who squirted a mouthful of dissolved tabacco upon me through the gratings, told me „I was a mutinous dog, and that I might die and be damned.“ — Finding there was no other remedy, I appealed to patience, and laid up this usage in my memory, to be recalled at a fitter season. — In the mean time, loſs of blood, vexation, and want of food, contributed, with the noisome stench of the place, to throw me into a swoon; out of which I was recovered by a tweak of the nose, administered by the tar who stood centinel over us, who at the same time regaled me with a draught of flip, and comforted me with the hopes of being put on board the Thunder next day, where I should be freed of my handcuffs, and cured of my wounds by the doctor. — I no sooner heard him name the Thunder, than I asked, if he had belonged to that ship long? and he giving me to understand he had belonged to her five years, I enquired if he knew Lieutenant Bowling? — „Know Lieutenant Bowling, (said he) — odds my

life! that I do; and a good seaman he is, as ever stept upon forecastle, — and a brave fellow as ever crackt bisket; — none of your guinea-pigs, — nor your fresh-water, wishy-washy, fair-weather fowls. —— Many a tough gale of wind has honest Tom Bowling and I weathered together. — Here's his health, with all my heart, wherever he is, a-loft or a-low — in heaven or in hell — all's one for that — he need not be ashamed to shew himself." — I was so much affected with this eulogium, that I could not refrain from telling him, that I was Lieutenant Bowling's kinsman; in consequence of which connexion, he expressed an inclination to serve me; and when he was relieved, brought some cold boiled beef in a platter, and biscuit, on which we supped plentifully, and afterwards drank another can of flip together. While we were thus engaged, he recounted a great many exploits of my uncle, who, (I found) was very much beloved by the ship's company, and pitied for the misfortune that had happened to him in Hispaniola, which I was very glad to be informed was not so great as I imagined; for Captain Oakhum had recovered of his wounds, and actually at that time commanded the ship. Having, by accident, in my pocket my uncle's letter,

written from Port Louis, I gave it my benefactor, (whose name was Jack Rattlin) for his perusal; but honest Jack told me frankly he could not read, and desired to know the contents; which I immediately communicated: When he heard that part of it, in which he says, he had written to his landlord in Deal, he cried, „Body o'me! that was old Ben Block — he was dead before the letter came to hand. — Ey, ey, had Ben been alive, Lieutenant Bowling would have had no occasion to sculk so long, — Honest Ben was the first man that taught him to hand, reef, and steer. — Well, well, we must all die, that's certain,— we must all come to port sooner or later, — at sea, or on shore; — we must be fast moored one day; — death's like the best bower anchor, as the saying is, it will bring us all up." — I could not but signify my approbation of the justnefs of Jack's reflections; and enquired into the occasion of the quarrel between Captain Oakum and my uncle; which he explained in this manner —" Captain Oakum is to be sure a good man enough, — besides' he's my commander: — but what's that to me? I do my duty, and value no man's anger of a rope's end. — Now the report goes as how he's a lord's, or *baron knight's* brother, whereby (d'ye see me) he

carries a strait arm and keeps aloof from his officers, thof, mayhap, they may be as good men in the main as he. Now we lying at anchor in Tiberoon bay, Lieutenant Bowling had the middle watch, and as he always kept a good look-out, he made (d'ye see) three lights in the offing, whereby he ran down to the great cabin for orders, and found the Captain asleep; whereupon he waked him, which but him in a main high passion, and he swore woundily at the Lieutenant, and called him a lousy Scotch son of a whore, (for I being then centinel in the steerage, heard all) and swab and lubber, whereby the Lieutenant returned the salute, and they jawed together fore and aft a good spell, till at last the Captain turned out, and laying hold of a rattan, came athwart Mr. Bowling's quarter; whereby he told the Captain, that if he was not his commander, he would heave him overboard, and demanded satisfaction a-shore; whereby in the morning watch, the Captain went a shore in the pinnace, and afterwards the Lieutenant carried the cutter a-shore: and so they, leaving the boat's crews on their oars, went away together; and so (d'ye see) in lefs than a quarter of an hour we heard firing, whereby we made for the place, and found the captain lying wounded on the beach, and

so brought him on board to the doctor, who cured him in lefs than six weeks. But the Lieutenant clapt on all the sail he could bear, and had got far enough a-head before we knew any thing of the matter; so that we could never after get sight of him, for which we were not sorry, because the captain was mainly wrath, and would certainly have done him a mischief; — for he afterwards caused him to be run on the ship's books, whereby he lost all his pay, and if he should be taken would be tried as a deserter."

This account of the captain's behaviour gave me no advantageous idea of his character; and I could not help lamenting my own fate, that had subjected me to such a commander. However, making a virtue of necessity, I put a good face on the matter, and next day was, with the other pressed men, put on board of the Thunder lying at the Nore — When we came along side, the mate who guarded us thither, ordered my handcuffs to be taken off, that I might get on board the easier; this circumstance being perceived by some of the company who stood upon the gang-boards to see us enter, one of them called to Jack Rattlin, who was busied in doing this friendly office for me: „Hey, Jack, what Newgate galley have you boarded in the river as you came

along? Have we not thieves enow among us already?“ Another observing my wounds, which remained exposed to the air, told me, my seams were uncaulked, and that I must be new payed. — A third, seeing my hair clotted together with blood, as it were into distinct cords, took notice, that my bows were manned with the red ropes, instead of my side. — A fourth asked me, if I could not keep my yards square without iron braces? And in short, a thousand witticisms of the same nature were passed upon me, before I could get up the ship's side. — After we had been all entered upon the ship's books, I enquired of one of my ship-mates where the surgeon was, that I might have my wounds dressed, and had actually got as far as the middle deck (for our ship carried eighty guns) in my way to the cock-pit, when I was met by the same midshipman, who had used me so barbarously in the tender: He seeing me free from my chains, asked, with an insolent air, who had released me? To this question I foolishly answered with a countenance that too plainly declared the state of my thoughts; „Whoever did it, I am persuaded did not consult you in the affair.“ — I had no sooner uttered these words, than he cried, „Damn you, you saucy son of a bitch, I'll teach you to

talk so to your officer." — So saying he bestowed on me several severe stripes, with a supple jack he had in his hand; and going to the commanding officer, made such a report of me, that I was immediately put in irons by the master at arms, and a centinel placed over me, — Honest Rattlin, as soon as he heard of my condition, came to me, and administered all the consolation he could, and then went to the surgeon in my behalf, who sent one of his mates to drefs my wounds. This mate was no other than my old friend Thomson, with whom I became acquainted at the Navy-Office, as before mentioned. If I knew him at first sight, it was not easy for him to recognize me, disfigured with blood and dirt, and altered by the misery I had undergone. — Unknown as I was to him, he surveyed me with looks of compassion, and handled my sores with great tendernefs. When he had applied what he thought proper and was about to leave me, I asked him if my misfortunes had disguised me so much, that he could not recollect my face? Upon this addrefs he observed me with great earnestnefs for some time, and at length, protested he could not recollect one feature of my countenance. — To keep him no longer in suspence, I told him my name:

which when he heard, he embraced me with affection, and professed his sorrow in seeing me in such a disagreeable situation. I made him acquainted with my story, and when he heard how inhumanly I had been used in the tender, he left me abruptly, assuring me, I should see him again soon. I had scarce time to wonder at his sudden departure, when the master at arms came to the place of my confinement, and bade me follow him to the quarter deck, where I was examined by the first lieutenant, who commanded the ship in the absence of the captain, touching the treatment I had received in the tender, from my friend the midshipman, who was present to confront me. — I recounted the particulars of his behaviour to me, not only in the tender, but since my beeing on board the ship, part of which being proved by the evidence of Jack Rattlin and others, who had no great devotion for my oppressor, I was discharged from confinement to make way for him, who was delivered to the master at arms to take his turn in the bilboes. And this was not the only satisfaction I enjoyed, for I was at the request of the surgeon, exempted from all other duty, than that of assisting his mates in making and administering medicines to the sick. This

good office I owed to the friendship of Mr. Thomson, who had represented me in such a favourable light to the surgeon, that he demanded me of the lieutenant to supply the place of his third mate, who was lately dead. When I had obtained this favour, my friend Thompson carried me down to the cock-pit, which is the place alloted for the habitation of the surgeon's mates: and when he had shewn me their birth, (as he called it) I was filled with astonishment and horror — We descended by divers ladders to a space as dark as a dungeon, which I understood was immersed several feet under water, being immediately above the hold: I had no sooner approached this dismal gulph, than my *nose* was saluted with an intolerable stench of putrified cheese and rancid butter, that issued from an apartment at the foot of the ladder, resembling a chandler's shop, where, by the faint glimmering of a candle, I could perceive a man, with a pale meagre countenance, sitting behind a kind of desk, having spectacles on his nose, and a pen in his hand. — This (I learned of Mr. Thompson) was the ship's steward, who sat there to distribute provision to the several messes, and to mark what each received. He therefore presented my name to him, and desired I might be

entered in his meſs; then, taking a light in his hand, conducted me to the place of his residence, which was a square of about six feet, surrounded with the medicine chest, that of the first mate, his own, and a board by way of table fastened to the after-powder-room: It was also inclosed with canvas, nailed round to the beams of the ship, to screen us from the cold, as well as from the view of the midshipmen and quarter-masters, who lodged within the cable tiers on each side of us: In this gloomy mansion, he entertained me with some cold salt pork, which he brought from a sort of locker, fixed above the table; and, calling for the boy of the meſs, sent for a can of beer, of which he made excellent flip to crown the banquet —— By this time I began to recover my spirits, which had been exceedingly depressed with the appearance of every thing about me, and could no longer refrain from asking the particulars of Mr. Thompson's fortune, since I had seen him in London. — He told me, that being disappointed in his expectations of borrowing money to gratify the rapacious s—tary at the Navy-office, he found himself utterly unable to subsist any longer in town!, and had actually offered his service, in quality of mate, to the surgeon

of a merchant's ship bound to Guinea on the slaving trade, when one morning, a young fellow, of whom he had some acquaintance, came to his lodgings, and informed him, that he had seen a warrant made out in his name at the Navy-office, for surgeon's second mate of a third rate: This unexpected piece of good news he could scarcely believe to be true; more especially as he had been found qualified at Surgeon's hall for third mate only; but that he might not be wanting to himself, he went thither to be assured, and actually found it so: Whereupon, demanding his warrant, it was delivered to him, and the oaths administered immediately. That very afternoon he went to Gravesend in the tilt-boad, from whence he took a place in the tide coach for Rochester; next morning got on board the Thunder, for which he was appointed, then lying in the harbour at Chatham; and the same day was mustered by the clerk of the checque. —— And well it was for him that such expedition was used; for in leſs than twelve hours after his arrival, another William Thompson came on board, affirming that he was the person for whom the warrant was expedited, and that the other was an impostor. My friend was grievously alarmed at this accident, the more so, as his

namesake had very much the advantage over him, both in assurance and drefs. However to acquit himself of the suspicion of imposture, he produced several letters written from Scotland to him in that name, and recollecting that his indentures were in a box on board, he brought them up, and convinced all present, that he had not assumed a name which did not belong to him. — His competitor, enraged that they should hesitate in doing him justice, (for to be sure, the warrant had been designed for him) behaved with so much indecent heat, that the commanding officer, (who was the same Gentleman I had seen) and the surgeon, who were offended at his presumption, making a point of it with their friends in town, in lefs than a week got the first confirmed in his station. — „I have been on board (said he) ever since, and as this way of life is become familiar to me, have no cause to complain of my situation. — The surgeon is a good-natured indolent man; the first mate (who is now on shore on duty) is indeed a little proud and choleric, as all Welchmen are, but in the main, a friendly honest fellow. — The lieutenants I have no concern with; and as for the captain, he is too mueh of a gentleman to know a surgeon's mate, even by sight.“

CHAP. XXV.

The Behaviour of Mr. Morgan —— His Pride, Displeasure, and Generosity —— the Economy of our Meſs described —— Thompson's further Friendship —— The Nature of my Duty explained — The Situation of the Sick.

While he was thus discoursing to me, we heard a voice on the cockpit ladder, pronounce with great vehemence, in a strange dialect, The devil and his dam blow me from the top of Mounchdeny, if I go to him before there is something in my pelly; — let his nose be as yellow as saffron, or as plue as a pell (look you) or green as a leek, 'tis all one." — To this declaration somebody answered, „So it seems to my poor meſs-mate must part his cable for want of a little assistance. — His fore top-sail is loose already; and besides the doctor ordered you to over haul him; — but I see you don't mind what your master says." — Here he was interrupted with, „splutter and oons! you lousy tog, who do you call my master? get you gone to the doctor, and tell him my birth, and education, and my abilities; and moreover my behaviour is as good as his, or any shentleman's (no disparagement to him) in the whole world. Got pleſs my soul! does

he think, or conceive, or imagine, that I am a horse, or an afs, or a goat, to trudge backwards and forwards, and upwards and downwards, and by sea and by land, at his will and pleasure? — Go your ways you rapscallion, and tell doctor Atkins, that I desire and request, that he will give a look upon the tying man, and order something for him if he be dead or alive; and I will see him take it by and by, when my craving stomach is satisfied, look you." — At this the other went away, saying, that if they would serve him so when he was dying, by God, he would be foul of them in the other world. — Here Mr. Thompson let me know that the person we heard was Mr. Morgan the first mate, who was just come on board from the hospital, whither he had attended some of the sick in the morning. — At the same time I saw him come into the birth. — He was a short thick man with a face garnished with pimples, a snub nose turned up at the end, an excessive wide mouth, and little fiery eyes, surrounded with skin puckered up in innumerable wrinkles. — My friend immediately made him acquainted with my case; when he regarded me with a very lofty look, but without speaking, set down a bundle he had in his hand, and approached the cupboard,

which when he had opened, he exclaimed in a great passion, „Cot is my life! all the pork is gone as I am a Christian!" Thompson then gave him to understand, that as I had been brought on board half famished, he could do no leſs than entertain me with what was in the locker; and the rather as he had bid the steward enter me into the meſs. — Whether this disappointment made Mr. Morgan more peevish than usual, or he really thought himself too little regarded by his fellow mate, I know not, but, after some pause, he went on in this manner. — „Mr. Thompson, perhaps you do not use me with all the good manners, and complaisance, and respect, (look you) that becomes you, because you have not vouchsafed to advise with me in this affair. — I have, in my time, (look you) been a man of some weight and substance, and consideration, and have kept house and home, and paid scot and lot, and the king's taxes; aye, and maintained a family to boot. And moreover, also, I am your senior, and your elder, and your petter, Mr. Thompson." — „My elder, I'll allow you to be, but not my better," cried Thompson with some heat. „Cot is my Saviour, and witneſs too (said Morgan, with great vehemence) that I am more elder, and therefore more petter by many years than you."

—Fearing this dispute might be attended with some bad consequence, I interposed, and told Mr. Morgan, I was very sorry for having been the occasion of any difference between him and the second mate; and that rather than cause the least breach in their good understanding, I would eat my allowance by myself, or seek admission into some other company. — But Thompson, with more spirit than discretion (as I thought) insisted upon my remaining where he had appointed me; and observing that no man possessed of generosity and compassion, would have any objection to it, considering my birth and talents, and the misfortunes I had of late so injustly undergone. — This was touching Mr. Morgan on the right key, who protested with great earnestneſs, that he had no objection to my being received in the meſs; but only complained, that the ceremony of asking his consent was not observed. „As for a shentleman in distreſs, (said he, shaking me by the hand,) I lofe him as I lofe my own powels: For Cot help me! I have had vexations enough upon my own pack." And as I afterwards learned, in so saying, he spoke no more than what was true; for he had been once settled in a very good situation in Glamorganshire, and was ruined by being security for an ac-

quaintance. — All differences being composed, he untied his bundle, which consisted of three bunches of onions, and a great lump of Cheshire-cheese wrapt up in a handkerchief; and taking some biscuit from the cupboard, fell to with a keen appetite, inviting us to a share of the repast — When he had fed heartily on his homely fare, he filled a large cup made of a cocoa-nut shell, with brandy, and drinking it off, told us, „Prandy was the menstruum for onion and sheese.“ — His hunger being appeased, he began to be in better humour; and being inquisitive about my birth, no sooner understood that I was descended of a good family, than he discovered a particular good will to me on that account, deducing his own pedigree in a direct line from the famous Caractacus, king of the Britons, who was first the prisoner, and afterwards the friend of Claudius Caesar. — Perceiving how much I was reduced in point of linen, he made me a present of two good ruffled shirts, which, with two more of check, which I received from Mr. Thompson, enabled me to appear with decency. — Meanwhile the sailor, whom Mr. Morgan had sent to the doctor, brought a prescription for his mefs-mate, which when the Welchman had read, he got up to prepare it, and asked if the man

was „tead or alive.“ „Dead! (replied Jack) if he was dead, he would have no occasion for doctor's stuff. — No, thank God, death han't as yet boarded him, but they have been yard arm and yard arm these three glasses.“ „Are his eyes open?“ (continued the mate.) „His starboard eye (said the sailor) is open, but fast jamm'd in his head; and the haulyards of his under jaw have given way.“ —— „passion of my heart! (cried Morgan) the man is as pad as one would desire to be! — Did you feel his pulse?“ To this the other replied with „Anan?“ — Upon which this Cambro Briton, with great earnestneſs and humanity, ordered the tar to run to his meſs mate, and keep him alive till he should come with the medicine, „and then (said he) you shall peradventure pehold what you shall see.“ — The poor fellow with great simplicity ran to the place where the sick man lay, but in leſs than a minute returned with a woeful countenance, and told us his comrade had struck. Morgan hearing this, exclaimed. „Mercy upon my salvation! why did you not stop him till I came?“ — „Stop him (said the other) I hailed him several times, but he was too far on his way, and the enemy had got possession of his close quarters; so that he did not mind me,“ —

„Well, well, (said he) we all owe heaven a teath. — Go your ways, you ragamuffin, and take an example and a warning, look you, and repent of your misteets.“ — So saying, he pushed the seaman out of the birth.

While he entertained us with reflections suitable to this event, we heard the boatswain pipe to dinner; and immediately the boy belonging to our meſs, ran to the locker, from whence he carried off a large wooden platter, and in a few minutes returned with it full of boiled pease, crying, „Scaldings,“ all the way as he came. — The cloth, consisting of a piece of an old sail, was instantly laid, covered with three plates, which by the colour I could with difficulty discern to be metal, and as many spoons of the same composition, two of which were curtailed in the handles, and the other abridged in the lip. Mr. Morgan himself enriched this meſs with a lump of salt butter, scooped from an old gallipot, and a handful of onions shorn, with some pounded pepper. I was not very much tempted with the appearance of this dish, of which, nevertheleſs, my meſs-mates eat heartily, and advising me to follow their example, as it was banyan-day, and we could have no

meat till next noon. But I had already laid in sufficient for the occasion; and therefore desired to be excused; expressing a curiosity to know the meaning of banyan-day. — They told me, that on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays the ship's company had no allowance of meat, and that these meagre days were called banyan-days, the reason of which they did not know; but I have since learned they take their denomination from a sect of devotees in some parts of the East-Indies, who never taste flesh.

After dinner, Thomsom led me round the ship, shewed me the different parts, described their uses, and as far as he could, made me acquainted with the particulars of the discipline and economy practised on board — He then demanded of the boatswain, an hammock for me, which was slung in a very neat manner by my friend Jack Rattlin; and as I had no bed clothes, procured credit for me with the purser, for a mattrafs and two blankets. — At seven o' clock in the evening Morgan visited the sick, and, having ordered what was proper for each, I assisted Thompson in making up his prescriptions: but when I followed him with the medicines into the sick birth or hospital, and observed the situations of the patients, I was much

lefs surprised that people should die on board than that any sick person should recover. — Here I saw about fifty miserable distempered wretches, suspended in rows, so huddled one upon another, that not more than fourteen inches space was allotted for each with his bed and bedding; and deprived of the light of day, as well as of fresh air; breathing nothing but a noisome atmosphere of the morbid steams, exhaling from their own excrements and diseased bodies, devoured with vermin hatched in the filth that surrounded them, and destitute of every convenience necessary for people in that helplefs condition.

CHAP. XXVI.

A disagreeable Accident happens to me in the Discharge of my Office — Morgan's Nose is offended — A Dialogue between him and the Ship's Steward — Upon Examination, I find more Causes of Complaint than one — My Hair is cut off — Morgan's Cookery — The manner of Sleeping on Board — I am waked in the Night by a dreadful Noise.

I could not comprehend how it was possible for the attendants to come near those

who hung on the inside towards the sides of the ship, in order to assist them, as they seemed barricadoed by those who lay on the outside, and entirely out of the reach of all visitation. — Much leſs could I conceive how my friend Thompson would be able to administer clysters, that were ordered for some in that situation; when I saw him thrust his wig in his pocket, and strip himself to his waistcoat in a moment, then creep on all four, under the hammocks of the sick, and forcing up his pare bate between two, kept them asunder with one shoulder, until he had done his duty. — Eager to learn the service, I desired he would give me leave to perform the next operation of that kind; and he consenting, I undressed myself after his example, and crawling along, the ship happened to roll; this motion alarming me, I laid hold of the first thing that came within my grasp, with such violence, that I overturned it, and soon found by the smell that issued upon me, I had not unlocked a box of the most delicious perfume; it was well for me that my nose was none of the most delicate, else I know not how I might have been affected by this vapour, which diffused itself all over the ship, to the utter discomposure of every body who tarried on the

same deck; — neither was the consequence of this disgrace confined to my sense of smelling only; for I felt my misfortune more ways than one. That I might not, however, appear altogether disconcerted in this my first essay, I got up, and pushing my head with great force between two hammocks, towards the middle, where the greatest resistance was, I made an opening, indeed, but not understanding the knack of dexterously turning my shoulder to maintain my advantage, had the mortification to find myself stuck up, as it were, in a pillory, and the weight of three or four people bearing on each side of my neck; so that I was in danger of srangulation. While I remained in this defencelefs posture, one of the sick men, rendered peevish by his distemper, was so enraged at the smell I had occasioned, and the rude shock he had received from me in my elevation, that with many bitter reproaches, he seized me by the nose, which he tweaked so unmercyfully, that I roared with anguish. Thompson perceiving my condition, ordered one of the waiters to my assistance, who with much difficulty disengaged me from this situation, and hindered me from taking vengeance on the sick man, whose indisposition would not

have screened him from the effects of my indignation.

After having made an end of our ministry for that time, we descended to the cock-pit, my friend comforting me for what had happened, with a homely proverb, which I do not chuse to repeat. When we had descended half way down the ladder, Mr. Morgan, before he saw us, having intelligence by his nose of the approach of something extraordinary, cried, „Cot have mercy upon my senses! I believe the enemy has poarded us in a stink-pot!“ Then directing his discourse to the steward, from whom he imagined the odour proceeded, he reprimanded him severely for the freedoms he took among gentlemen of birth, and threatened to smoak him like a padger with sulphur, if he ever should presume to offend his neighbours with such smells for the future: The steward, conscious of his own innocence, replied with some warmth, „I know of no smells but those of your own making.“ — This repartee introduced a smart dialogue, in which the Welchman undertook to prove, that though the stench he complained of did not flow from the steward's own body, he was neverthelefs the author of it, by serving out damaged provisions to the ship's company; and in particular putrified cheese,

from the use of which only, he affirmed, such unsavory steams could arise. — Then he launched out into the praise of good cheese, of which he gave the analysis; he explained the different kinds of that commodity, with the methods practised to make and preserve it; and concluded with observing, that in yielding good cheese, the country of Glamorgan might vie with Cheshire itself, and was much superior to it in the produce of goats and putter. I gathered from this conversation, that if I entered in my present pickle, I should be no welcome guest, and therefore desired Mr. Thompson to go before, and represent my calamity: at which the first mate expressing some concern, went upon deck immediately, taking his way through the cable tier, and by the main hatchway, to avoid encountering me; desiring me to clean myself as soon as possible, for he intended to regale himself with a dish of salmagundy and a pipe. — Accordingly I set about this disagreeable businefs, and soon found I had more causes of complaint than I at first imagined; for I perceived some guests had honoured me with their company, whose visit I did not all think seasonable; neither did they seem inclined to leave me in a hurry, for they were in possession of my

chief quarters, where they fed without reserve at the expence of my blood. — But considering it would be much easier to extirpate this ferocious colony in the infancy of their settlement, than after they should be multiplied and naturalized to the soil, I took the advice of my friend, who, to prevent such misfortunes, went always close shaved, and made the boy of our meſs cut off my hair, which had been growing since I left the service of Lavement; and the second mate lent me an old bob wig to supply the loſs of that covering. This affair being ended, and every thing adjusted in the best manner my circumstances would permit, the descendant of Caractacus returned, and ordering the boy to bring a piece of salt beef from the brine, cut off a slice and mixed it with an equal quantity of onions, which seasoning with a moderate proportion of pepper and salt, he brought it into a consistence with oil and vinegar. Then tasting the dish, assured us, it was the best salmagundy that ever he made, and recommended it to our palate with such heartineſs, that I could not help doing honour to his preparation. But I had no sooner swallowed a mouthful, than I thought my entrails were scorched, and endeavoured, with a deluge of small beer, to allay the heat it occasioned. — Supper

being over, Mr. Morgan having smoaked a couple of pipes, and supplied the moisture he had expended with as many cans of flip, of which we all partook; a certain yawning began to admonish me, that it was high time to repair by sleep the injury I had suffered from want of rest the preceeding night; which, being perceived by my companions, whose time of repose was now arrived, they proposed we should turn in, or in other words, go to bed. Our hammocks, which hung parallel to one another, on the outside of the birth, were immediately unlashed, and I beheld my messmates spring with great agility into their respective nests, where they seemed to be concealed, very much at their ease. But it was some time before I could prevail upon myself to trust my carcase at such a distance from the ground, in a narrow bag, out of which, I imagined, I should be apt, on the least motion in my sleep, to tumble town, at the hazard of breaking my bones. I suffered myself, however, to be persuaded, and taking a leap to get in, threw myself quite over, with such violence, that, had I not luckily got hold of Thompson's hammock, I should have pitched upon my head on the other side, and, in all likelihood, fractured my skull. — After some fruitlefs efforts, I succeeded at last; but

the apprehension of the jeopardy in which I believed myself, withstood all the attacks of sleep, till towards the morning watch, when, in spite of my fears, I was overpowered with slumber: though I did not long enjoy this comfortable situation; being aroused with a noise so loud and shrill, that I thought the drums of my ears were burst by it; this was followed by a dreadful summons, pronounced by a hoarse voice, which I could not understand. While I was debating with myself whether or not I should wake my companion, and enquire into the occasion of this disturbance, I was informed by one of the quarter-masters, who passed by me with a lanthorn in his hand, that the noise which alarmed me, was occasioned by the boatswain's mates, who called up the larboard watch, and that I must lay my account with such interruption every morning at the same hour. — Being now more assured of my safety, I adressed myself again to rest, and slept till eight o' clock, when rising, and breakfasting with my comrades, on biscuit and brandy, the sick were visited and assisted as before; after which visitation my good friend Thompson explained and performed another piece of duty, to which I was a stranger. At a certain hour in the morning,

the boy of the meſs went round all the decks, ringing a small hand-bell, and in rhimes composed for the occasion, invited all those who had sores, to repair before the mast, where one of the doctor's mates attented, with applications to dreſs them.

CHAP. XXVII.

I acquire the Friendship of the Surgeon, who procures a Warrant for me, and makes me a Present of Cloaths — A Battle between a Midshipman and me — The Surgeon leaves the Ship—The Captain comes on Board with another Surgeon — A Dialogue between the Captain and Morgan — The Sick are ordered to be brought upon the Quarter deck and examined — The Consequences of that Order — A Madman accuses Morgan, and is set at Liberty by command of the Captain, whom he instantly attacks and pummels without Mercy.

While I was busied with my friend in this practice, the doctor chanced to paſs by the place where we were, and, stopping to observe me, appeared very well satisfied with my method of application: and afterwards sent for me to his cabin, where having examined

me touching my skill in surgery, and the particulars of my fortune, he interested himself so far in my behalf, as to promise his assistance in procuring a warrant for me, seeing I had been already found qualified at Surgeon's-hall for the station I filled on board; and in this good office he the more cordially engaged, when he unterstood I was nephew to Lieutenant Bowling, for whom he expressed a particular regard. — In the mean time, I could learn from his discourse, that he did not intend to go to sea again with Captain Oakum, having, as he thought, been indifferently used by him during the last voyage.

While I lived tolerably easy, in expectation of preferment, I was not altogether without mortifications, which I not only suffered from the rude insults of the sailors and petty officers, among whom I was known by the name of *Loblolly Boy*; but also from the disposition of Morgan, who, though friendly in the main, was often very troublesome with his pride, which expected a good deal of submission from me, and delighted in recapitulating the favours I received at his hands.

About six weeks after my arrival on board, the surgeon bidding me follow him

into his cabin, presented a warrant to me, by which I was appointed surgeon's third mate on board the Thunder — This he had procured by his interest at the Navy Office, as also another for himself, by virtue of which he was removed into a second rate. I acknowledged his kindnefs in the strongest terms my gratitude could suggest, and professed my sorrow at the prospect of losing so valuable a friend, to whom I hoped to have recommended myself still further, by my respectful and diligent behaviour. — But his generosity ended not here; — for, before he left the ship, he made me a present of a chest and some cloaths, that enabled me to support the rank to which he had raised me. — I found my spirits revive with my good fortune; and now I was an officer, resolved to maintain the dignity of my station, against all opposition or affronts; nor was it long before I had occasion to exert my resolution: my old enemy, the midshipman (whose name was Crampley) entertaining an implacable animosity against me for the disgrace he had suffered on my account, had since that time taken all opportunities of reviling and ridiculing me, when I was not entitled to retort this bad usage. And even after I had been rated on the books, and mustered as surgeon's

mate, did not think fit to restrain his insolence. — In particular, being one day present while I dressed a wound in a sailor's leg, he began to sing a song, which I thought highly injurious to the honour of my country, and therefore signified my resentment, by observing, that the Scots always laid their account with finding enemies among the ignorant, insignificant and malicious. — This unexpected piece of assurance enraged him to such a degree, that he lent me a blow on the face, which I verily thought had demolished my cheek bone; I was not slow in returning the obligation, and the affair began to be very serious, when by accident Mr. Morgan, and one of the master's mates, coming that way, interposed, and enquired into the cause, endeavoured to promote a reconciliation; but finding us both exasperated to the utmost, and bent against accommodation, they advised us, either to leave our difference undecided till we should have an opportunity of terminating it on shore like gentlemen, or else choose a proper place on board, and bring it to an issue by boxing. This last expedient was greedily embraced by us both; and being forthwith conducted to the ground proposed, we stript in a moment, and began a very furious contest, in which I soon

found myself inferior to my antogonist, not so much in strength and agility, as in skill, which he had acquired at the school of Hockley in the Hole, and Tottenham-Court. — Many crofs buttocks did I sustain, and pegs on the stomach without number, till at last my breath being quite gone, as well as my vigour quite wasted, I grew desperate, and collecting all my strength in one effort, threw in at once, head, hands, and feet, with such violence, that I drove my antagonist three paces backwards into the main hatchway, down which he fell, and pitching upon his head and right shoulder remained without sense and motion. — Morgan looking down, and seeing him lie in that condition, cried, „Upon my conscience, as I am a Christian sinner, (look you) I believe his pattles are all ofer; but I take you all to witnefs, there was no treachery in the case, and that he has suffered by the chance of war." — So saying he descended to the deck below, to examine into the situation of my adversary; and left me very little pleased with my victory, as I found myself not only terribly bruised, but likewise in danger of being called to an account for the death of Crampley: but this fear vanished when my fellow-mate, having, by bleeding him in the jugu-

lar, brought him to himself, and inquired into the state of his body, calling up to me to be under no concern, for the midshipman had received no other damage, than as pretty a luxation of the *os humeri*, as one would desire to see on a summer's day. — Upon this information, I crawled down to the cockpit, and acquainted Thompson with the affair, who, providing himself with bandages, etc. necessary for the occasion, went up to assist Mr. Morgan in the reduction of the dislocation. — When this was succefsfully performed, they wished me joy of the event of the combat; and the Welchman, after observing, that in all likelihood, the ancients Scots and Britons were the same people, bade me, „praise Cot for putting mettle in my pelly, and strength in my limps to support it." — I acquired such reputation by this rencounter (which lasted twenty minutes) that every body became more cautious in behaviour towards me; though Crampley, with his arm in a sling, talked very high, and threatened to seize the first opportunity of retrieving on shore, the honour he had lost by an accident, from which I could justly claim no merit.

About this time, captain Oakum, having received sailing orders, came on board, and brought along with him a surgeon of his own

country, who soon made us sensible of the loss we suffered in the departure of doctor Atkins; for, he was grossly ignorant, and intolerably assuming, false, vindictive, and unforgiving; a merciless tyrant to his inferiors, an abject sycophant to those above him. In the morning after the captain came on board, our first mate, according to custom, went to wait on him with a sick list, which when this grim commander had perused, he cried with a stern countenance, „Blood and oons! sixty-one sick people on board of my ship! — Harkee, you sir, I'll have no sick in my ship, by G—d.“ The Welchman replied, he should be very glad to find no sick people on board; but while it was otherwise, he did no more than his duty in presenting him with a list. — „You and your list may be d—n'd, (said the captain throwing it at him) I say, there shall be no sick in the ship while I have the command of her.“ — Mr. Morgan being nettled at this treatmemt, told him, his indignation ought to be directed to Got Almighty, who visited his people with distempers, and not to him, who contributed all in his power towards their cure. The bashaw not being used to such behaviour in any of his officers, was enraged to fury at this satirical insinuation, and stamping with

his foot, called him insolent scoundrel, threatened to have him pinioned to the deck, if he should presume to utter another syllable. But the blood of Caractacus being thoroughly heated, disdained to be restricted by such a command, and began to manifest itself in, „Captain Oagum I am a shentleman of birth and parentage (look you) and peradventure I am moreover ——" Here his harangue was broke off by the captain's steward, who, being Morgan's countryman, hurried him out of the cabin before he had time to exasperate his master to a great degree: and this would certainly have been the case; for the indignant Welchman could hardly be hindered, by his friends arguments and entreaties, from re entering the presence chamber, and defying Captain Oakum to his teeth. — He was, however, appeased at length, and came down to the birth, where finding Thompson and me at work, preparing medicines, he bade us leave of our labour and go to play, for the captain by his sole word and power and command, had driven sicknefs a pegging to the devil, and there was no more malady on board. So saying, he drank off a gill of brandy, sighed grievously three times, poured forth an ejaculation of „Got blefs my heart, liver and lungs!" and then began to sing a

Welch song with great earnestnefs of visage, voice, and gesture. — I could not conceive the meaning of this singular phaenomenon, and saw by the looks of Thompson, who at the same time shook his head, that he suspected poor Cadwalladar's brains were unsettled. He perceiving our amazement, told us he would explain the mistery; but at the same time bade us take notice, that he had lived boy, patchelor, married man, and widower, almost forty years, and in all that time, there was no man nor mother's son in the whole world, who durst use him so ill as captain Oakum, had done. Then he acquainted us with the dialogue that passed between them, as I have already related it; and had no sooner finished this narration, than he received a message from the surgeon, to bring the sick list to the quarter-deck, for the captain had ordered all the patients thither to be reviewed. — This inhuman order shocked us extremely, as we knew it would be impossible to carry some of them on the deck, without imminent danger of their lives; but as we likewise knew it would be to no purpose for us to remonstrate against it, we repaired to the quarter-deck in a body, to see this extraordinary muster; Morgan observing by the way that the captain was going to

send to the other world, a great many evidences to testify against himself. — When we appeared upon deck, the captain bade the doctor, who stood bowing at his right hand, look at these lazy lubberly sons of bitches, who were good for nothing on board but to eat the king's provision, and encourage idleneſs in the skulkers. — The surgeon grinned approbation, and taking the list, began to examine the complaints of each as they could crawl to the place appointed. — The first who came under his cognizance was a poor fellow just freed of a fever, which had weakened him so much, that he could hardly stand. — Mr. Mackshane (for that was the doctor's name) having felt his pulse, protested he was as well as any man in the world, and the captain delivered him over to the boatswain's mate, with orders that he should receive a round dozen at the gang-way immediately, for counterfeiting himself sick: — but before the discipline could be executed, the man dropt down on the deck, and had well nigh perished under the hands of the executioner. — The next patient to be considered, laboured under a quartan ague, and being then in his interval of health, discovered no other symptoms of distemper, than a pale meagre countenance, and emaciated

body; upon which, he was declared fit for duty, and turned over to the boatswain; — but being resolved to disgrace the doctor, died upon the forecastle next day, during his cold fit. — The third complained of a pleuritic titch, and spitting of blood, for which doctor Mackshane prescribed exercise at the pump, to promote expectoration; but whether this was improper for one in his situation, or that it was used to excefs, I know not, but in lefs than half an hour, he was suffocated with a deluge of blood that issued from his lungs. — A fourth, with much difficulty, climbed to the quarter-deck, being loaded, with a monstrous ascites or dropsy, that invaded his chest so much, he could scarce fetch his breath; but his disease being interpreted into fat, occasioned by idlenefs and excefs of eating, he was ordered, with a view to promote perspiration and enlarge his chest, to go aloft immediately. It was in vain for this unwieldy wretch to alledge his utter incapacity, the boatswain's driver was commanded to whip him up with the cat and nine tails. The smart of this application made him exert himself so much, that he actually arrived at the puttoc shrouds; but when the enormous weight of his body had nothing else to sup-

port it than his weakened arms, either out of spite or necessity he quitted his hold, and plunged into the sea, where he must have been drowned, had not a sailor, who was in a boat along-side, saved his life by keeping him afloat till he was hoisted on board by a tackle. — It would be tedious and disagreeable to describe the fate of every miserable object that suffered by the inhumanity and ignorance of the captain and surgeon, who so wantonly sacrificed the lives of their fellow-creatures. Many were brought up in the height of fevers, and rendered delirious by the injuries they received in the way — Some gave up the ghost in the presence of their inspectors; and others, who were ordered to their duty, languished a few days at work among their fellows, and then departed without any ceremony. On the whole, the number of sick was reduced to lefs than a dozen; and the authors of this reduction were applauding themselves for the services they had done to their king and country, when the boatswain's mate informed his honour, that there was a man below lashed to his hammock by the direction of the doctor's mate, and that he begged hard to be released: affirming, he had been so maltreated only for a grudge Mr. Morgan bore

him, and that he was as much in his senses as any man aboard. — The captain hearing this, darted a severe look at the Welchman, and ordered the man to be brought up immediately. Upon which, Morgan protested with great fervency, that the person in question was as mad as a March-hare; and begged for the love of Got, they would at least keep his arms pinioned during his examination, to prevent him from doing mischief. This request the commander granted for his own sake, and the patient was produced, who insisted upon his being in his right wits with such calmnefs and strength of argument, that every body present was inclined to believe him, except Morgan, who affirmed there was no trusting to appearances; for he himself had been so much imposed upon by his behaviour two days before, that he had actually unbound him with his own hands, and had well nigh been murdered for his pains; this was confirmed by the evidence of one of the waiters, who declared, he had pulled this patient from the doctor's mate, whom he had gotten down and almost strangled. — To this the man answered, that the witnefs was a creature of Morgan's, and was suborned to give his testimony against him by the malice of the mate, whom the defendant had affronted, by

discovering to the people on board that Mr. Morgan's wife kept a gin-shop in Rag Fair. — This anecdote produced a laugh at the expence of the Welchman, who shaking his head with some emotion, said, „Aye, aye, 'tis no matter. — Got knows, it is an arrant falsehood.“ — Captain Oakum, without any farther hesitation, ordered the fellow to be unfettered; at the same time, threatening to make Morgan exchange situations with him for his spite. But the Briton no sooner heard the decision in faviour of the madman, than he got up to the mizen shrouds, crying to Thompson and me to get out of his reach, for we should see him play the devil with a vengeance. — We did not think fit to disregard his caution and accordingly got up on the poop, whence we beheld the maniac (as soon as he was released) fly at the captain like a fury, crying, „I'll let you know, you scoundrel, that I am commander of this vessel,“ — and pummelled him without mercy. The surgeon, who went to the assistance of his patron, sharing the same fate; and it was with the utmost difficulty that he was mastered at last, after having done great execution among those who opposed him.

CHAP. XXVIII.

The Captain enraged, threatens to put the Madman to death with his own Hand — Is diverted from that Resolution by the Arguments and Persuasions of the First Lieutenant and Surgeon — We set Sail for St. Helen's, join the Fleet under the Command of Sir C—n——r O———le, and proceed for the West-Indies — Are overtaken by a terrible Tempest — My Frind Jack Rattlin has his Leg broke by a Fall from the Main yard — The Behaviour of Doctor Mackshane — Jack opposes the Amputation of his Limb, in which he is seconded by Morgan and me, who undertake the Cure, and perform it succeſsfully.

The captain was carried into his cabin, so enraged with the treatment he had received, that he ordered the fellow to be brought before him, that he might have the pleasure of pistoling him with his own hand; and would certainly have satisfied his revenge in this manner, had not the first lieutenant remonstrated against it, by observing, that in all appearance the fellow was not mad, but desperate; that he had been hired by some enemy of the captain to assassinate him, and therefore ought to be kept in irons till he

could be brought to a court-martial, which, no doubt, would sift the affair to the bottom, (by which means, important discoveries might be made) and then sentence the criminal to a death adequate to his demerits. — This suggestion, improbable as it was, had the desired effect upon the captain, being exactly calculated for the meridian of his intellects; more especially, as Dr. Mackshane espoused this opinion, in consequence of his previous declaration that the man was not mad. — Morgan finding there was no more damage done, could not help discovering, by his countenance, the pleasure he enjoyed on this occasion; and while he bathed the doctor's face with an embrocation, ventured to ask him, whether he thought there were more fools or madmen on board? But he would have been wiser in restraining this sally, which his patient carefully laid up in his memory, to be taken notice of at a more fit season. Mean while we weighed anchor, and on our way to the Downs, the madman, who was treated as a prisoner, took an opportunity while the centinel attended him at the head, to leap over-board, and frustrate the revenge of the captain. We staid not long at the Downs, but took the benefit of the first easterly wind to go round to Spithead; when, having

received on board provisions for six months, we sailed from St. Helen's in the grand fleet bound for the West Indies, on the ever-memorable expedition of Carthagena,

It was not without great mortification I saw myself on the point of being transported to such a distant and unhealthy climate, destitute of every convenience that could render such a voyage supportable; and under the dominion of an arbitrary tyrant, whose command was almost intolerable: However, as these complaints were common to a great many on board, I resolved to submit patiently to my fate, and contrive to make myself as easy as the nature of the case would allow. —— We got out of the channel with a prosperous breeze, which died away, leaving us becalmed about fifty leagues to the westward of the lizard: but this state of inaction did not last long; for next night our main-top sail was split by the wind, which in the morning increased to a hurricane. —— I was wakened by a most horrible din, occasioned by the play of the gun carriages upon the deck above, the cracking of the cabins, the howling of the wind through the shrouds, the confused noise of the ship's crew, the pipes of the boatswain and his mates, the trumpets of the lieutenants, and the clanking of the chain

pumps. — Morgan, who had never been at sea before, turned out in a great hury, crying, „Got have mercy and compassion upon us! I believe we have got upon the confines of Lucifer and the d—mned!“ while poor Thompson lay quaking in his hammock, putting up petitions to Heaven for our safety. —— I rose and joined the Welchman, with whom, (after having fortified ourselves with brandy) I went above: but if my sense of hearing was startled before, how must my sight have been appalled in beholding the effects of the storm! The sea was swelled into billows mountains high, on the top of which our ship sometimes hung as if it was about to be precipitated to the abyſs below! Sometimes we sunk between two waves that rose on each side higher than our top-mast-head, and threatened, by dashing together, to overwhelm us in a moment; Of all our fleet, consisting of a hundred and fifty sail, scarce twelve appeared, and these driving under their bare poles, at the mercy of the tempest. At length the mast of one of them gave way, and tumbled over-board with a hideous crash! Nor was the prospect in our own ship much more agreeable; a number of officers and sailors ran backward and forward, with distraction in their looks,

hallooing to one another, and undetermined what they should attend to first. Some clung to the yards, endeavouring to unbend the sails, that were split into a thousand pieces, flapping in the wind; others tried to furl those which were yet whole, while the masts, at every pitch, bent and quivered like twigs, as if they would have shivered into innumerable splinters! While I considered this scene with equal terror and astonishment, one of the main braces broke, by the shock whereof two sailors were flung from the yards arm into the sea, where they perished, and poor Jack Rattlin thrown down upon the deck, at the expence of a broken leg. Morgan and I ran immediately to his assistance, and found a splinter of the shin bone thrust by the violence of the fall through the skin: As this was a case of too great consequence to be treated without the authority of the doctor, I went down to his cabin to inform him of the accident, as well as to bring up dressings, which we always kept ready prepared. — I entered his apartment without any ceremony, and by the glimmering of a lamp, perceived him on his knees, before something that very much resembled a crucifix; but this I will not insist upon, that I may not seem too much a slave to common report,

which indeed assisted my conjecture on this occasion, by representing Dr. Makshane as a member of the church of Rome. — Be this as it will, he got up in a sort of confusion, occasioned (I suppose) by his being disturbed in his devotion, and in a trice, snatched the subject of my suspicion from my sight. — After making an apology for my intrusion, I acquainted him with the situation of Rattlin, but could by no means prevail upon him to visit him on deck where he lay; he bade me desire the boatswain to order some of the men to carry him down to the cockpit, and in the mean time (said he) I will direct Thompson to get ready the dressings. When I signified to the boatswain the doctor's desire, he swore a terrible oath, that he could not spare one man from the deck, because he expected the mast would go by the board every minute. — This piece of information did not at all contribute to my peace of mind; however, as my friend Rattlin complained very much, with the assistance of Morgan, I supported him to the lower deck, whither Mr. Mackshane, after much intreaty, ventured to come, attended by Thompson with a box full of dressings, and his own servant, who carried a whole set of capital instruments. He examined the fracture and the wound,

and concluding from a lived colour extending itself upon the limb, that a mortification would ensue, resolved to amputate the leg immediately. This was a dreadful sentence to the patient, who, recruiting himself with a quid of tobacco, pronounced with a woeful countenance, „What! is there no remedy, doctor? — must I be dock'd! can't you splice it?“ — Assuredly, Doctor Mackshane (said the first mate) with submission and deference, and veneration to your superior abilities, and opportunities, and stations (look you) I do apprehend, and conjecture, and aver, that there is no occasion nor necessity to smite off this poor man's leg.“ — „God Almighty blefs you, dear Welchman! (cried Rattling) may you have fair wind and weather wheresoever you're bound, and come to an anchor in the road of heaven at last.“ — Mackshane, very much incensed at his mate's differing in opinion from him so openly, answered, that he was not bound to give an account of his practice to him; and in a peremptory tone, ordered him to apply the tourniquet. At the sight of which, Jack starting up, cried, „Avast, avast! d—n my heart, if you clap your nippers on me, till I know wherefore! — Mr. Random, won't you lent a

hand towards saving my precious limb? Odd's heart, if lieutenant Bowling was here, he would not suffer Jack Rattlin's leg to be chopped off like a piece of old junk." —— This pathetic addreſs to me, joined to my inclination to serve my honest friend, and the reasons I had to believe there was no danger in delaying the amputation, induced me to declare myself of the first mate's opinion, and affirm that the preternatural colour of the skin was owing to an inflamation occasioned by a contusion, and common in all such cases, without any indication of an approaching gangrene. Morgan, who had a great opinion of my skill, manifestly exulted in my fellowship, and asked Thompson's sentiments of the matter, in hopes of strengthening our association with him too: but he, being of a meek disposition, and either dreading the enmity of the surgeon, or speaking the dictates of his own judgment, in a modest manner, espoused the opinion of Mackshane, who by this time, having consulted with himself, determined to act in such a manner, as to screen himself from censure and at the same time revenge himself on us, for our arrogance in contradicting him — With this view, he asked, if we would undertake to cure the leg at our peril; that is,

be answerable for the consequence. — To this question Morgan replied, that the lives of his creatures are in the hands of Got alone; and it would be great presumption in him to undertake for an event that was in the power of his Maker, no more than the doctor could promise to cure all the sick to whom he administered his assistance; but if the patient would put himself under our direction, we would do our endeavour to bring his distemper to a favourable issue, to which, at present, we saw no obstruction. —— I signified my concurrence; and Rattlin was so overjoyed, that shaking us both by the hands, he swore no body else should touch him, and if he died, his blood should be upon his own head. — Mr. Mackshane, flattering himself with the prospect of our miscarriage, went away, and left us to manage it as we should think proper; accordingly, having sawed off part of the splinter that stuck through the skin, we reduced the fracture, dressed the wound, applyed the eighteen-tailed bandage, and put the leg in a box, *secundum artem.* Every thing succeeded according to our wish, and we had the satisfaction of not only preserving the poor fellow's leg, but likewise of rendering the doctor contemptible among the ship's

company, who had all their eyes on us during the course of this cure, which was compleated in six weeks.

CHAP. XXIX.

Mackshane's Malice — I am taken up and imprisoned for a Spy — Morgan meets with the same Fate — Thompson is tampered with to turn Evidence against us — Disdains the Proposal, and is maltreated for his Integrity — Morgan is released to assist the Surgeon during an Engagement with some French Ships of War — I remain fettered on the Poop, exposed to the Enemy's Shot, and grow delirious with Fear — Am comforted after the Battle by Morgan, who speaks freely of the Captain, is over-heard by the Centinel, who informs against him, and again imprisoned —— Thompson grows desperate, and notwithstanding the Remonstrances of Morgan and me, goes overboard in the Night.

In the mean time, the storm subsided into a brisk gale, that carried us into the warm latitudes, where the weather became intolerable, and the crew very sickly. The doctor left nothing unattempted towards the completion

of his vengeance against the Welchman and me. He went among the sick, under pretence of enquiring into their grievances, with a view of picking up complaints to our prejudice; but finding himself frustrated in that expectation by the good will we had procured from the patients, by our diligence and humanity, he took the resolution of listening to our conversation, by hiding himself behind the canvas that surrounded our birth; here too he was detected by the boy of our mefs, who acquainted us with this piece of behaviour; and one night, while we were picking a large bone of salt beef, Morgan discerned something stir on the outside of our hangings, which immediately interpreting to be the doctor, he tipt me the wink, and pointed to the place, where I could perceive somebody standing; upon which, I snatched up the bone, and levelled it with all my force at him, saying, „Whoever you are, take that for your curiosity.“ — It had the desired effect, for we heard the listener tumble down, and afterwards crawl to his own cabin. — I applauded myself much for this feat, which turned out one of the most unluky exploits of my life, Mackshane from that time marking me out for destruction. — About a week after this exploit, as I was going my

rounds among the sick, I was taken prisoner, and carried to the poop by the master at arms, where I was loaded with irons, and stapled to the deck, on pretence that I was a spy on board, and had conspired against the captain's life. — How ridiculous soever this imputation was, I did not fail to suffer by it all the rigour that could be shewn to the worst of criminals, being exposed in this miserable condition to the scorching heat of the sun by day, and the unwholesome damps by night, during the space of twelve days, in which I was neither brought to trial, nor examined touching the probability of my charge. — I had no sooner recovered the use of my reflection, which had been quite overthrown by this accident, than I sent for Thompson, who after condoling me on the occasion, hinted, that I owed this misfortune to the hatred of the doctor, who had given an information against me to the captain, in consequence of which I was arrested, and all my papers seized. — While I was cursing my capricious fate, I saw Morgan ascend the poop, guarded by two corporals, who made him sit down by me, that he might be pinioned in the same machine. — Notwithstanding my situation, I could scarce refrain from laughing at the countenance of my fellow prisoner, who,

without speaking one word, allowed his feet to be inclosed in the rings provided for that purpose; but when they pretended to fasten him on his back, he grew outrageous, and drawing a large couteau from his side pocket, threathed to rip up the belly of the first man that should approach him, in order to treat him in such an unworthy manner. — They were preparing to use him very roughly, when the lieutenant on the quarter-deck, called up to them to let him remain as he was. — He then crept towards me, and taking me by the hand, bade me „put my trust in Cot.“ — And looking at Thompson, who sat by us trembling, with a pale visage, told him there were two more rings for his feet, and he should be glad to find him in such good company. — But it was not the intention of our adversary to include the second mate in our fate: Him he excepted to be his drudge in attending the sick, and, if possible, his evidence against us: With this view he sounded him afar off, but finding his integrity incorruptible, harrassed him so much out of spite, that in a short time this mild creature grew weary of his life.

While I and my fellow prisoner comforted each other in our tribulation, the Admiral discovered four sail to leeward, and made

signal for our ship and four more to chace: Hereupon every thing was cleared for an engagement, and Mackshane foreseeing he should have occasion for more assistants than one, obtained Morgans liberty; while I was left in this deplorable posture to the chance of battle. — It was almost dark when we came up with the sternmost chace, which we hailed, and inquired who they were; they gave us to understand they were French men of war, upon which Captain Oakum desired them to send their boat on board of him; but they refused, telling him if he had any busineſs with them, to come on board of their ship: He then threatened to pour in a broadside upon them, which they promised to return. — Both sides were as good as their word, and the engagement began with great fury. — The reader may gueſs how I passed my time, lying in this helpleſs situation, amidst the terrors of a sea-fight; expecting every moment to be cut asunder or dashed in pieces by the enemy's shot! I endeavoured to compose myself as much as possible, by reflecting that I was not a whit more exposed than those who were stationed about me; but when I beheld them employed without intermission in annoying the foe, and encouraged by the society and behaviour of one another, I could

easily perceive a wide difference between their condition and mine: However, I concealed my agitation as well as I could, till the head of the officer of marines who stood near me, being shot off, bounced from the deck athwart my face leaving me well nigh blinded with brains. — I could contain myself no longer, but began to bellow with all the strength of my lungs: when a drummer coming towards me, asked if I was wounded, and before I could answer, received a great shot in his belly, which tore out his entrails, and he fell flat on my breast. — This accident entirely bereft me of all discretion: I redoubled my cries, which were drowned in the noise of the battle; and finding myself disregarded, lost all patience and became frantic: I vented my rage in oaths and execrations, till my spirits being quite exhausted, I remained quiet, and insensible of the load ~~with~~ which oppressed me. — The engagement lasted till broad day, when Captain Oakum, finding he was like to gain neither honour nor advantage, by the affair, pretended to be undeceived by seeing their colours; and hailing the ship with whom he had fought all night, protested he believed them Spaniards, and the guns being silenced on each side, ordered the barge to be hoisted out, and went on board of the

French commodore. — Our loſs amounted to ten killed, and eighteen wounded, most part of whom afterwards died. — My fellow-mates had no sooner dispatched their buſineſs in the cock-pit, than, full of friendly concern, they came to visit me. — Morgan ascending first, and seeing my face almost covered with brains and blood, concluded I was no longer a man for this world; and calling to Thompson with great emotion, bade him come up, and take his last farewell of his comrade and countryman, who was posting to a better place, where there were no Mackshanes nor Oakums to asperse and torment him. — „No, (said he, taking me by the hand) you are going to a country where there is more respect shewn to unfortunate shentlemen, and where you will have the satisfaction of beholding your adversaries tossing upon pillows of purning primstone.“ — Thompson, alarmed at this apostrophe, made haste to the place where I lay, and sitting down by me, with tears in his eyes, inquired into the nature of my calamity. — By this time I had recollected myself so far as to be able to converse rationally with my friends, whom, to their great satisfaction, I immediately undeceived with regard to their apprehension of my being

mortally wounded. — After I had got myself disengaged from the carnage in which I wallowed, and partaken of a refreshment which my friends brought along with them, we entered into discourse upon the hardships we sustained, and spoke very freely of the authors of our misery: but our discourse being overheard by the centinel who guarded me, he was no sooner relieved, than he reported to the captain every syllable of our conversation, according to the orders he had received: The effect of this information soon appeared in the arrival of the masters at arms, who replaced Morgan in his former station; and gave the second mate a caution to keep a strict guard over his tongue, if he did not choose to accompany us in our confinement. Thompson foreseeing that the whole slavery of attending the sick and wounded as well as the cruelty of Mackshane, must now fall upon his shoulders, grew desperate at the prospect, and though I never heard him swear before, imprecated dreadful curses on the heads of his oppressors, declaring that he would rather quit life altogether, than be much longer under the power of such barbarians. — I was not a little startled at his vivacity, and endeavoured to alleviate his complaints, by representing the subject of my own, with as

much aggravation as it would bear, by which comparison he might see the balance of misfortune lay on my side, and take an example from me of fortitude and submission, till such time as we could procure redrefs, which I hoped was not far off, considering, that we should probably be in a harbour in lefs than three days, where we should have an opportunity of preferring our complaints to the Admiral. — The Welchman joined in my remonstrances, and was at great pains to demonstrate, that it was every man's duty, as well as interest, to resign himself to the divine will, and look upon himself as a centinel upon duty, who is by no means at liberty to leave his post before he is relieved. — Thompson listened attentively to what we said, and at last, shedding a flood of tears, shook his head, and left us without making any reply. — About eleven at night he came to see us again, with a settled gloom on his countenance, and gave us to understand, that he had undergone excessive toil since he saw us, and in recompence, had been grofsly abused by the doctor, who taxed him with being confederate with us, in a design of taking away his life and that of the captain. After some time spent in mutual exhortation, he got up, and squeezing me by the hand with a uncommon

fervour, cried, „God blefs you both;“ and left us to wonder at his singular manner of parting with us, which did not fail to make an impression on us both.

Next morning, when the hour of visitation came round, this unhappy young man was missing, and after strict search, supposed to have gone over-board in the night; and this was certainly the case.

CHAP. XXX.

We lament the Fate of our Companion —— The Captain offers Morgan his Liberty, which he refuses to accept —— We are brought before him and examined —— Morgan is sent back into Custody, whither also I am remanded, after a curious Trial.

The news of this event affected my fellow prisoner and me extremely, as our unfortunate companion had justly acquired, by his amiable disposition, the love and esteem of us both; and the more we regretted his untimely fate, the greater horror we conceived for the villain, who was undoubtedly the occasion of it. — This abandoned miscreant did not discover the least symptom of concern for Thompson's death, although

he must have been conscious to himself of having driven him by ill usage to that fatal resolution; but desired the captain to set Morgan at liberty again to look after the patients. Accordingly, one of the corporals was sent up to unfetter him; and he protested he would not be released until he should know for what he was confined; nor would he be a tennis ball, nor a shuttlecock, nor a trudge, nor a scullion to any captain under the sun. Oakum finding him obstinate, and fearing it would not be in his power to exercise his tyranny much longer with impunity, was willing to shew some appearance of justice, and therefore ordered us both to be brought before him on the quarter-deck, where he sat in state, with his clerk on one side, and his counsellor Mackshane on the other. — When we approached, he honoured us with this salutation: „So, gentlemen, damn my blood! many a captain in the navy would have ordered you both to be tuck'd up to the yard arm, without either judge or jury, for the crimes you have been guilty of; but damn my blood, I have too much good-nature, in allowing such dogs as you to make your defence.“ — „Captain Oakum (said my fellow sufferer) certainly it is in your power (Got help the

while) to tuck us all up at your will, and desire, and pleasure. —— And perhaps it would be petter for some of us to be tucked up, than undergo the miseries to which we have been exposed. So may the farmer hang his kids for his diversion, and amusement, and mirth; but there is such a thing as justice, if not upon earth, surely in heaven, that will punish with fire and primstone all those who take away the lives of innocent people out of wantonneſs and parparity (look you) — In the mean time, I shall be glad to know the crimes laid to my charge, and see the person who accuses me." — „That you shall, (said the captain;) here, doctor, what have you to say?" — Mackshane stepping forward, hemmed a good while, in order to clear his throat; and before he began, Morgan accosted him thus; „Doctor Mackshane, look in my face — look in the face of an honest man, who abhors a false witneſs as he abhors the tevil, and Got be judge between you and me." — The doctor not minding this conjuration, made the following speech, as near as I can remember: — „I'll tell you what, Mr. Morgan, to be sure what you say is just, in regard to an honest man, and if so be it appears as how you are an honest man, then

it is my opinion, that you deserve to be aquitted, in relation to that there affair: for I tell you what, captain Oakum is resolved for to do every body justice. — As for my own part, all that I have to alledge, is, that I have been informed you have spoken disrespectful words against your captain, who, to be sure, is the most honourable and generous commander in the king's service, without asparagement or acceptation of man, woman, or child."

Having uttered this elegant harangue, on which he seemed to plume himself, Morgan replied, „I do partly guefs, and conceive, and understand your meaning, which I wish could be more explicit: But, however, I do suppose, I am not to be condemned upon bare hearsay; or if I am convicted of speaking disrespectfully of captain Oakum, I hope there is no treason in my words." — „But there's mutiny, by God, and that's death by the articles of war, (cried Oakum) — In the mean time, let the witnesses be called." — Hereupon Mackshane's servant appeared, and the boy of our mefs, whom they had seduced and tutored for the purpose — The first declared, that Morgan, as he descended the cock-pit ladder, one day, cursed the captain, and called him a savage beast, saying,

he ought to be hunted down as an enemy to mankind. — „This (said the clerk) is a strong presumption of a design formed against the captain's life. — For why? It pre - supposes malice afore - thought, and a criminal intention *a priori*." —— „Right (said the captain to this miserable grub, who had been an attorney's boy) you shall have law enough, here's Cook and Littlejohn for it." — This evidence was confirmed by the boy, who affirmed, he heard the first mate say, that the captain had no more bowels than a bear, and the surgeon had no more brains than an afs. — Then the centinel who heard our discourse on the poop was examined, and informed the court that the Welchman assured me, Captain Oakum, and Doctor Mackshane would tofs upon billows of burning brimstone in hell for their barbarity. — The clerk observed, that there was an evident prejudication, which confirmed the former suspicion of a conspiracy against the life of Captain Oakum; for, because, how could Morgan so positively pronounce that the captain and surgeon would be damned, unlefs he had an intention to make away with them before they could have time to repent? — This sage explanation had a great weight with our noble commander who

exclaimed, „What have you to say to this, Taffy? you seem to be taken all a back, brother, ha!“ — Morgan was too much of a gentleman to disown the text, although he absolutely denied the truth of the comment: Upon which the captain, strutting up to him, with a ferocious countenance, said, „So, Mr. son of a bitch, you confefs you honoured me with the names of bear and beast, and pronounced my damnation! — Damn my heart! I have a good mind to have you brought to a court martial and hanged, you dog.“ — Here, Mackshane, having occasion for an assistant, interposed, and begged the captain to pardon Mr. Morgan, with his wonted goodnefs, upon condition that he, the delinquent, should make such submission as the nature of his misdemeanor demanded. — Upon which the Cambro Britain, who, on this occasion would have made no submission to the Great Mogul, surrounded by his guards, thanked the doctor for his mediation, and acknowledged himself in the wrong for calling the image of God a peast, „but (said he) I spoke by metaphor and parable, and comparison, and types; as we signify meeknefs by a lamb, letchery by a goat, and craftinefs by a fox; so we liken ignorance to an afs, and brutality to a bear,

and fury to a tyger; therefore I made use of these similies to exprefs my sentiments (look you) and what I said before Got, I will not unsay before man or peast neither." — Oakum was so provoked at this insolence (as he termed it) that he ordered him forthwith to be carried to the place of his confinement, and his clerk to proceed on the examination of me. — The first question put to me, was touching the place of my nativity, which I declared to be the north of Scotland. — „The north of Ireland more like, (cried the captain) but we shall bring you up presently." — He then asked what religion I professed; and when I answered, „The protestant," swore I was as arrant a Roman as ever went to mafs. — „Come, come, clerk, (continued he) catechise him a little on this subject. — But before I relate the particulars of the clerk's enquiries, it will not be amifs to inform the reader, that our commander himself was an Hibernian, and, if not shrewdly belied, a Roman Catholic to boot. —— „You say you are a protestant, (said the clerk) make the sign of the crofs with your fingers, so, and swear upon it to that affirmation." —— When I was about to perform this ceremony, the captain cried with some emotion, „No, no, damme! I'll have no profanation, neither. —

But go on with your interrogations." — "Well then, (proceeded my examiner) how many sacraments are there?" — To which I replied, "Two." — "What are they?" (said he) I answered, "Baptism and the Lord's Supper." — "And so you would explode confirmation and marriage altogether; (said Oakum) I thought this fellow was a rank Roman." The clerk, though he was bred under an attorney, could not refrain from blushing at this blunder, which he endeavoured to conceal, by observing that these decoys would not do with me who seemed to be an old offender. — He went on with asking, if I believed in transubstantiation; but I treated the notion of a real presence with such disrespect, that his patron was scandalized at my impiety, and commanded him to proceed to the plot. — Whereupon this miserable pettifogger told me, there was great reason to suspect me of being a spy on board; and that I had entered into a conspiracy with Thompson and others not yet detected, against the life of Captain Oakum. — Which accusation they pretended to support by the evidence of our boy, who declared he had often heard the deceased Thompson and me whispering together, and could distinguish the words, "Oakum, rascal, poison, pistol." By which expressions it ap-

peared, we did intend to use sinister means to accomplish his destruction. That the death of Thompson seemed to confirm this conjecture, who either feeling the stings of remorse, for being engaged in such a horrid confederacy, or fearing a discovery, by which he must have infallibly suffered an ignominious death, had put a fatal period to his own existence. — But what established the truth of the whole, was a book in cyphers found among my papers, which exactly tallied with one found in his chest, after his disappearance. This, he observed was a presumption very near proof positive, and would determine any jury in Christendom to find me guilty. — In my own defence, I alledged, that I had been dragged on board at first very much against my inclination, as I could prove by the evidence of some people now in the ship, consequently could have no design of becoming a spy at that time; and ever since had been entirely out of the reach of any correspondence that could justly entail that suspicion upon me. — As for conspiring against my captain's life, it could not be supposed that any man in his right wits would harbour the least thought of such an undertaking, which he could not possibly perform without certain infamy and ruin to

himself, even if he had all the inclination in the world. — That allowing the boy's evidence to be true (which I affirmed was false and malicious) nothing conclusive could be gathered from a few incoherent words. Neither was the fate of Mr. Thompson a circumstance more favourable for the charge; for I had in my pocket a letter which too well explained that mystery, in a very different manner from that which was supposed. With these words I produced the following letter, which Jack Rattlin brought to me the very day after Thompson disappeared; and told me it was committed to his care by the deceased, who made him promise not to deliver it sooner. The clerk taking it out of my hand, read aloud the contents, which were these:

„*Dear Friend*,

„I am so much oppressed with the fatigue I daily and nightly undergo, and the barbarous usage of Dr. Mackshane, who is bent on your destruction as well as mine, that I am resolved to free myself from this miserable life, and before you receive this shall be no more. I could have wished to die in your good opinion*, which I am afraid I shall forfeit by the last act of my life; but if you cannot acquit me, I know you will at least preserve

some regard for the memory of an unfortunate young man who loved you — I recommend it to you, to beware of Mackshane, whose revenge is implacable. — I wish all prosperity to you and Mr. Morgan, to whom pray offer my last respects, and beg to be remembered as your unhappy friend and countryman,

William Thompson."

This letter was no sooner read, than Mackshane, in a transport of rage, snatched it out of the clerk's hands, and tore it into a thousand pieces, saying, it was a villainous forgery, contrived and executed by myself. — The captain and clerk declared themselves of the same opinion, although I insisted on having the remains of it compared with other writings of Thompson, which they had in their possession. I was ordered to answer the last article of my accusation, namely, the book of cyphers found among my papers. — „That is easily done, (said I.) What you are pleased to call cyphers are no other than the Greek characters, in which, for my amusement, I kept a diary of every thing remarkable that has occurred to my observation since the beginning of the voyage, till the day on which I was put in irons; and the same method was practised by Mr. Thompson, who copied mine." — „A very likely story! (cried Mack-

shane.) What occasion was there for using Greek characters, if you were not afraid of discovering what you had wrote? —— But what d'ye talk of Greek characters? — D'ye thing I am so ignorant of the Greek language, as not to distinguish its letters from these, which are no more Greek than Chinese? No, no; I will not give up my knowledge of the Greek for you, nor none that ever came from your country." So saying, with an unparalled effrontery, he repeated some gibberish, which by the sound seemed to be Irish, and made it paſs for Greek with the captain, who looking at me with a contemptuous sneer, exclaimed, „Ah, ah,! have you caught a Tartar?" I could not help smiling at the consummate assurance of this Hibernian, and offered to refer the dispute to any body on board who understood the Greek alphabet: Upon which Morgan was brought back, and being made acquainted with the affair, took the book, and read a whole page in English, without hesitation, deciding the controversy in my favour. —— The doctor was so far from being out of countenance at this detection, that he affirmed, Morgan was in the secret, and repeated from his own invention. Oakum said, „Aye, aye, I see they are both n a story:" And dismissed my fellow mate

to his cock-loft, although I proposed that he and I should read and translate separately, any chapter or verse in the Greek testament in his possession, by which it would appear whether we or the surgeon spoke truth. —— Not being endued with eloquence enough to convince the captain that there could be no juggle nor confederacy in this expedient, I begged to be examined by some unconcerned person on board, who understood Greek. Accordingly the whole ship's company, officers and all, were called upon deck, amog whom it was proclaimed, that if any of them could speak Greek, he or they so qualified should ascend the quarter deck immediately. —— After some pause, two fore-mast men came up, and professed their skill in that language, which (they said) they acquired during several voyages to the Levant, among the Greeks of the Morea. The captain exulted much in this declaration, and put my journal-book into the hands of one of them, who candidly owned he could neither read nor write: the other acknowledged the same degree of ignorance, put pretended to speak the Greek lingo with any man on board: and addressing himself to me, pronounced some sentences of a barbarous corrupted language, which I did not understand. — I asserted, that the

modern Greek was as different from that spoke and written by the ancients, as the English used now from the old Saxon spoke in the time of Hengist; and as I had only learned the true original tongue, in which Homer, Pindar, the Evangelists, and other great men of antiquity wrote, it could not be supposed that I should know any thing of an imperfect Gothic dialect, that rose on the ruins of the former, and scarce retained any traces of the old expression. —— But if doctor Mackshane, who pretended to be master of the Greek language, could maintain a conversation with these seamen, I would retract what I had said, and be content to suffer any punishment he should think proper to inflict. — I had no sooner uttered these words, than the surgeon, knowing one of these fellows to be his countryman, accosted him in Irish, and was answered in the same brogue; when a dialogue ensued between them, which they affirmed to be in Greek, after having secured secrecy of the other tar, who had his cue in the language of the Morea from his companion, before they would venture to assert such an intrepid falsehood. — „I thought (said Oakum) we should discover the imposture at last. — Let the rascal be carried back to his confinement. — I find he

must dangle." —— Having nothing further to urge in my own behalf, before a court so prejudiced with spite, and fortified with ignorance against truth, I suffered myself to be re-conducted peaceably to my fellow prisoner, who, hearing the particulars of my trial, lifted up his hands and eyes to Heaven, and uttered a dreadful groan; and not daring to disburden his thoughts to me by speech, lest he might be overheard by the centinel, burst forth into a Welch song, which he accompanied with a thousand contortions of face, and violent gestures of body.

CHAP. XXXI.

I discover a Subornation against me, by means of a Quarrel between Two of the Evidences; in consequence of which, I am set at Liberty, and prevail upon Morgan to accept of his Freedom on the same Terms — Mackshane's Malice — We arrive at Jamaica, from whence in a short Time we beat up to Hispaniola, in conjunction with the West India Squadron — We take in Water, Sail again, and arrive at Carthagena — Reflections on our Conduct there.

Mean while, a quarrel happening between the two modern Greeks, the one, to be

revenged of the other, came and discovered to us the mystery of Mackshane's dialogue, as I have explained it above. This detection coming to the ears of the doctor, who was sensible, that (now we were in sight of Jamaica;) we should have an opportunity of clearing ourselves before a court-martial, and, at the same time, of making his malice and ignorance conspicuous, he interceded for us with the captain so effectually, that in a few hours we were set at liberty, and ordered to return to our duty. — This was a happy event for me, my whole body being blistered by the sun, and my limbs benumbed by want of motion: But I could scarce persuade the Welchman to accept of this indulgence, he persisting in his obstinacy to remain in irons until he should be discharged by a court-martial, which he believed would also do him justice on his enemies. At length I represented to him the precarious issue of a trial, the power and interest of his adversaries, and flattered his revenge with the hope of wreaking his resentment with his own hands upon Mackshane after our return to England, This last argument had more weight with him than all the rest, and prevailed upon him to repair with me to the cockpit, which I no sooner entered, than

the idea of my departed friend presented itself to my remembrance, and filled my eyes with tears. — We discharged from our mefs the boy who had acted so perfidiously, notwithstanding his tears, entreaties, and professions of penitence for what he had done; but not before he had confessed than the surgeon had bribed him to give evidence against us, with a pair of stockings, and a couple of old check shirts,of which his servant had since plundered him.

The keys of our chests and lockers being sent to us by the doctor, we detained the messenger until we had examined the contents; and my fellow mate, finding all his Cheshire cheese consumed to a crust, his brandy exhausted, and his onions gone, was seized with a fit of choler, which he discharged on Mackshane's man in oaths and execrations, threatening to prosecute him as a thief. ——— The fellow swore in his turn, that he never had the keys in his possession till that time, when he received them from his master, with orders to deliver them to us. — „As Got is my judge, (cried Morgan,) and my salfation, and my witnefs, whosoever has pilfered my provisions, is a lousy, peggarly, rascally knave! and by the soul of my grandsire! I will impeach, and

accuse, and indict him of a roppery, if I did but know who he is." — Had this misfortune happened at sea, where we could not repair the lofs, in all probability this descendant of Charactacus would have lost his wits entirely; but when I observed, how easy it would be to remedy this paltry mischance, he became more calm, and reconciled himself to the occasion —— A little while after this transport, the surgeon came into the birth, under pretence of taking something out of the medicine chest, and, with a smiling aspect, wished us joy of our deliverance, which (he said,) he had been at great pains to obtain of the captain, who was very justly incensed at our behaviour; but he (the doctor) had passed his word for our future conduct, and he hoped we should give him no cause to repent of his kindnefs. — He expected (no doubt) an acknowledgment from us for this pretended piece of service, as well as a general amnesty of what was past; but he had to do with people who were not quite so apt to forgive injuries as he imagined or to forget that, if our deliverance was owing to his mediation, our calamity was occasioned by his malice. I therefore sat silent, while my companion answered, „Aye, Aye, 'tis no matter — Got knows the heart — there is a time for all

things, as the wise man saith; there is a time for throwing away stones, and a time to gather them up again." — He seemed to be disconcerted at this reply, and went away in a pet, muttering something about „Ingratitude" and „Fellows," of which we did not think fit to take any notice.

Our fleet having joined another that waited for us, lay at anchor about a month in the harbour at Port-Royal, in Jamaica, during which time something of consequence was certainly transacted; notwithstanding the insinuations of some, who affirmed we had no businefs at all in that place — that in order to take the advantage of the season proper for our enterprise, the West India squadron, which had previous notice of our coming, ought to have joined us at the west end of Hispaniola, with necessary stores and refreshments, from whence we could have sailed directly for Carthagena, before the enemy could put themselves in a good posture of defence, or, indeed, have an inkling of our design. Be this as it will, we sailed from Jamaica, and in ten days or a fortnight, beat up against the wind as far as the isle of Vache, with an intention, as was said, to attack the French fleet, then supposed to be lying near that place; but before we arrived, they had

sailed for Europe, having first dispatched an advice-boat to Carthagena, with an account of our being in those seas, as also of our strength and destination. — We loitered here some days longer, taking in wood an brackish-water, in the use whereof, however, our admiral seemeed to consult the health of the men, by restricting each to a quart a day. — At length we set sail, and arrived in a bay to the windward of Carthagena, where we came to an anchor, and lay at our ease ten days longer. —— Here again, certain malicious people take occasion to blame the conduct of their superiors, by saying, that in so doing, they not only unprofitably wasted time, which was very precious, considering the approach of the rainy season, but also allowed the Spaniards to recollect themselves from the terror occasioned by the approach of an English fleet, at least three times as numerous as ever appeared in that part of the world before. But, if I might be allowed to give my opinion of the matter, I would ascribe this delay to the generosity of our chiefs, who scorned to take any advantage that fortune might give them, even over an enemy. At last, however, we weighed, and anchored again somewhat nearer the harbour's mouth, where we made shift to land our marines,

who encamped on the beach, in despite of the enemy's shot, which knocked a good many of them on the head. —— This piece of conduct, in choosing a camp under the walls of an enemy's fortification, which I believe never happened before, was practised, I presume, with a view of accustoming the soldiers to stand fire, who were not as yet much used to discipline, most of them having been taken from the plough-tail a few months before. —— This expedient again has fournished matters for censure against the ministry, for sending a few raw recruits on such an important enterprise, while so many veteran regiments lay inactive at home: but surely our governors had their reasons for so doing which possible may be disclosed with other secrets of the deep. Perhaps they were loth to risk their best troops on such desperate service; or, the colonels and field officers of the old corps, who, generally speaking, enjoyed their commissions as sine-cures or pensions, for some domestic service rendered to the court, refused to embark in such a dangerous and precarious undertaking; for which refusal, no doubt, they are to be much commended.

CHAP. XXXII.

Our Land Forces being disembarked, erect a Fascine Batterie — Our Ship is ordered, with Four more, to batter the Fort of Boca Chica — Mackshane's Cowardice — The Captain's phrenzy — Honest Rattlin loses one Hand — His Heroism, and Reflections on the Battle — Grampley's Behaviour to me during the Heat of the Fight.

Our forces being landed and stationed as I have already mentioned, set about erecting a fascine battery to cannonade the principal fort of the enemy, and in something more than three weeks it was ready to open. That we might do the Spaniards as much honour as possible, it was determined, in a council of war, that five of our largest ships should attack the fort on one side, while the battery, strengthened by two mortars and twenty-four cohorns, should ply it on the other.

Accordingly, the signal for our ship to engage, among others, was hoisted, we being advertised the night before, to make every thing clear for that purpose; and in so doing, a difference happened between Captain Oakum and his well-beloved cousin and counsellor Mackshane, which had well nigh terminated in an open rupture. —— The

doctor, who had imagined there was no more danger of being hurt by the enemy's shot in the cockpit, than in the centre of the earth, was lately informed that a surgeon's mate had been killed in that part of a ship, by a cannon-ball from two small redoubts that were destroyed before the disembarkation of our soldiers; and therefore insisted upon having a platform raised, for the convenience of the sick and wounded, in the after-hold, where he deemed himself more secure than on the deck above. The captain, offended at this extraordinary proposal, accused him of pusillanimity, and told him, there was no room in the hold for such an occasion: or, if there was, he could not expect to be indulged more than the rest of the surgeons of the navy, who used the cockpit for that purpose. Fear rendering Mackshane obstinate, he persisted in his demand, and shewed his instructions, by which it was authorized. The captain swore those instructions were dictated by a parcel of lazy poltroons, who were never at sea: neverthelefs, he was obliged to comply, and sent for the carpenter to give him orders about it: But before any such measure could be taken, our signal was thrown out, the doctor was compelled to trust his carcase in the cock-

pit, where Morgan and I were busy in putting our instruments and dressings in order.

Our ship, with others destined for this service, immediately weighed, and in lefs than half an hour came to an anchor before the castle of Boca Chica, with a spring upon our cable — and the cannonading (which indeed was terrible,) began. The surgeon, after having crossed himself, fell flat on the deck; and the chaplain and purser, who were stationed with us, in quality of assistants, followed his example; while the Welchman and I sat upon a chest looking at one another with great discomposure, scarce able to refrain from the like prostration. — And that the reader may know it was not a common occasion that alarmed us thus, I must inform him of the particulars of this dreadful din that astonished us. The fire of the Spaniards proceeded from eighty-four great guns, beside a mortar and small arms, in Boca Chica, thirty-six in Fort St. Joseph, twenty in two fascine batteries, and four men of war, mounting sixty-four guns each. — This was answered by our land battery, mounted with twenty-one cannon, two mortars, and twenty four cohorns, and five great ships of eighty or seventy guns, that fired without intermission. — We had not been many minutes

engaged, when one of the sailors brought another on his back to the cockpit, where he tossed him down like a bag of oats, and pulling out his pouch, put a large chew of tobacco in his mouth, without speaking a word. Morgan immediately examined the condition of the wounded man, and cried out, „As I shall answer now, the man is tead as my great grandfather.“ —— „Dead! (said his comrade:) he may be dead now, for aught I know; but I'ill be damn'd if he was not alive when I took him up.“ — So saying, he was about to return to his quarters, when I bade him carry the body along with him, and throw it over-board. ——— „D—n the body! (said he) I think 'tis fair enough if I take care of my own.“ — My fellow-mate, snatching up the amputation knife, pursued him half way up the cockpit ladder, crying, „You lousy rascal, is this the church-yard, or the charnel-house, or the sepulchre, or the golgotha of the ship?“ — but was stopt in his career by one calling, „Yo, ho, avast there — Scaldings.“ — „Scaldings,“ (answered Morgan,) Got knows 'tis hot enough indeed: — Who are you?“ — „Here's one,“ (replied the voice.) And I immediately knew it to be that of my honest friend, Jack Rattlin, who, coming towards me, told me, with

great deliberation, he was come to be docked at last, and discovered the remains of one hand, which had been shattered to pieces with a grape shot. — I lamented with unfeigned sorrow his misfortune, which he bore with heroic courage, observing, that every shot had its commission: It was well it did not take him in the head; for, if it had, what then? he should have died bravely; fighting for his king and country. Death was a debt which every man owed, and must pay: and that now was as well as another time. —— I was much pleased and edified with the maxims of this sea-philosopher, who endured the amputation of his left hand without shrinking: the operation being performed (at his request) by me, after Mackshane, who was with difficulty prevailed to lift his head from the deck, had declared there was a necessity for his losing the limb. — while I was employed in dressing the stump, I asked Jack's opinion of the battle, who shaking his head, frankly told me, he believed we should do no good; „For why, because, instead of dropping anchor close under shore, where we should have had to deal with one corner of Boca Chica only, we had opened the harbour, and exposed ourselves to the whole fire of the enemy from their shipping and Fort

St. Joseph, as well as from the castle we intended to cannonade; that besides, we lay at too great a distance to damage the walls, and three parts in four of our shot did not take place: for there was scarce any body on board who understood the pointing of a gun. — Ah! God help us! (continued he) if your kinsman Lieutenant Bowling had been there, we should have had other guefs work." — By this time our patients had increased to such a number, that we did not know which to begin with; and the first mate plainly told the surgeon, that if he did not get up immediately, and perform his duty, he would complain of his behaviour to the admiral, and make application for his warrant. This remonstrance effectually roused Mackshane, who was never deaf to an argument in which he thought his interest was concerned: he therefore rose up, and, in order to strengthen his resolution, had recourse more than once to a case-bottle of rum, which he freely communicated to the chaplain and purser, who had as much need of such extraordinary inspiration as himself: being thus supported, he went to work, and arms and legs were hewed down without mercy. —— The fumes of the liquor mounting into the parson's brain, conspired

with his former agitation of spirits to make him quite delirious; he stript himself to the skin, and, besmearing his body with blood, could scarce be with-held from running upon deck in that condition. Jack Rattlin, scandalized at this deportment, endeavoured to allay his transports with reason: but finding all he said ineffectual and great confusion occasioned by his frolics, he knocked him down with his right hand, and by threats kept him quiet in that state of humiliation. — But it was not in the power of rum to elevate the purser, who sat on the floor wringing his hands, and cursing the hour in which he left his peaceable profession of a brewer in Rochester, to engage in such a life of terror and disquiet. ——— While we diverted ourselves at the expence of this poor devil, a shot happened to take us between wind and water, and, (its course being through the purser's store-room) made a terrible havock and noise among the jars and bottles in its way, and disconcerted Mackshane so much, that he dropt his scalpel, and falling down on his knees, pronounced his *pater-noster* aloud; the purser fell backward, and lay without sense or motion; and the chaplain grew so outrageous, that Rattlin with one hand could not keep him under; so that

we were obliged to confine him in the surgeon's cabin, where he was no doubt guilty of a thousand extravagances. — Much about this time my old antagonist Crampley came down, with exprefs orders (as he said) to bring me up to the quarter deck, to drefs a slight wound the captain had received by a splinter; his reason for honouring me in particular with this piece of service being, that, in case I should be killed or disabled by the way, my death or mutilation would be of lefs consequence to the ship's company, than that of the doctor or his first mate. — At another time, perhaps, I might have disputed this order, to which I was not bound to pay the least regard; but as I thought my reputation depended upon my compliance, I was resolved to convince my rival, that I was no more afraid than he of exposing myself to danger. — With this view I provided myself with dressings, and followed him immediately to the quarter-deck, through a most infernal scene of slaughter, fire, smoke, and uproar! Captain Oakum, who leaned against the mizenmast, no sooner saw me approach in my shirt, with the sleeves tucked up to my arm pits, and my hands dyed with blood, than he signified his displeasure by a frown,

and asked why the doctor himself did not come? I told him Crampley had singled me out, as if by exprefs command; at which reply he seemed surprised, and threatened to punish the midshipman for his presumption after the engagement. In the mean time I was sent back to my station, and ordered to tell Mackshane, that the captain expected him immediately. — I got safe back, and delivered my commission to the doctor, who flatly refused to quit the post assigned to him by his instructions: whereupon Morgan, who (I believe) was jealous of my reputation for courage, undertook the affair, and ascended with great intrepidity. — The captain, finding the surgeon obstinate, suffered himself to be dressed, and swore he would confine Mackshane as soon as the service should be over.

CHAP. XXXIII.

A Breach being made in the Walls, our Soldiers give the Assault, and take the Place without Opposition —— Our Sailors at the same Time become Masters of all the other Strengths near Boca Chica, and take possession of the Harbour —— The good consequence of this Succefs —— We move

nearer the Town — Find two Forts deserted, and the Channel blocked up with sunk Vessels; which however we find means to clear —— Land our Soldiers at La Quinta — Repulse a Body of Militia —— Attack the Castle of St. Lazar, and are forced to retreat with great Loſs —— The Remains of our Army are re-embarked —— An Effort of the Admiral to take the Town —— The Economy of our Expedition described.

Having cannonaded the fort during the space of four hours, we were all ordered to slip our cables, and sheer off: But next day the engagement was renewed, and continued from the morning till the afternoon, when the enemy's fire from Boca Chica slackened, and towards evening was quite silenced. — A breach being made on the other side, by our land battery, large enough to admit a middle-sized baboon, provided he could find means to climb up to it, our General proposed to give the assault that very night, and actually ordered a detachment on that duty. Providence stood our friend upon this occasion, and put it into the hearts of the Spaniards to abandon the fort, which might have been maintained by resolute men to the day of judgment against all the force we could exert

in the attack. —— And while our soldiers took possession of the enemy's ramparts, without resistance, the same good luck attended a body of sailors, who made themselves masters of Fort St. Joseph, the fascine batteries, and one Spanish man of war; the other three heing burnt or sunk by the foe, that they might not fall into our hands. —— The taking of these forts, in the strength of which the Spaniards chiefly confided, made us masters of the outward harbour, and occasioned great joy among us; as we laid our accounts with finding little or no opposition from the town: and, indeed, if a few great ships had sailed up immediately, before they had recovered from the confusion and despair that our unexpected succefs had produced among them, it is not impossible that we might have finished the affair to our satisfaction, without any more bloodshed; but this step our heroes disdained, as a barbarous insult over the enemy's distrefs; and gave them all the respite they could desire, in order to recollect themselves. —— In the mean time, Mackshane, taking the advantage of this general exultation, waited on our captain, and pleaded his own cause so effectually, that he was re-established in his good graces; and as for Crampley, there was no more notice

taken of his behaviour towards me during the action. —— But of all the consequences of the victory, none was more grateful than plenty of fresh water, after we had languished five weeks on the allowance of a purser's quart *per diem* for each man, in the Torrid Zone, where the sun was vertical, and the expence of bodily fluid so great, that a gallon of liquor could scarce supply the waste of twenty-four hours; especially as our provision consisted of putrid salt-beef, to which the sailors gave the name of Irish horse; salt-pork of New-England, which, though neither fish nor flesh, savoured of both; bread from the same country, every biscuit whereof, like a piece of clock-work, moved by its own internal impulse, occasioned by the myriads of insects that dwelt within it; and butter served out by the gill, that tasted like train oil thickened with salt. Instead of small beer, each man was allowed three half quarterns of brandy or rum, which were distributed every morning, diluted with a certain quantity of his water, without either sugar or fruit to render it palatable, for which reason, this composition was by the sailors not unaptly stiled *necessity*. Nor was this limitation of simple element owing to a scarcity of it on board, for there was at this

time water enough in the ship for a voyage of six-months, at the rate of half a gallon *per* day to each man: But this fast must (I suppose) have been enjoined by way of penance on the ship's company for their sins; or rather with a view to mortify them into a contempt of life, that they might thereby become more resolute and regardlefs of danger. How simple then do those people argue, who ascribe the great mortality among us to our bad provision and want of water; and affirm, that a great many valuable lives might have been saved, if the uselefs transports had been employed in fetching fresh stock, turtle, fruit, and other refreshments from Jamaica, and other adjacent islands, for the use of the army and fleet! seeing it is to be hoped, that those who died went to a better place, and those who survived were the more easily maintained. After all, a sufficient number remained to fall before the walls of St. Lazar, where they behaved like their own country-mastiffs, which shut their eyes, run into the jaws of a bear, and have their heads crushed for their valour.

But to return to my narration: After having put garrisons into the forts we had taken, and re-embarked our soldiers and artillery, a piece of service that detained us

more than a week, we ventured up to the mouth of the inner harbour, guarded by a large fortification on one side, and a small redoubt on the other, both of which were deserted before our approach, and the entrance of the harbour blocked up by several old galleons, and two men of war that the enemy had sunk in the channel. — We made shift, however, to open a passage for some ships, that favoured a second landing of our troops at a place çalled La Quinta, not far from the town, where, after a faint resistance from a body of Spaniards, who opposed their disembarkation, they encamped, with a design of besieging the castle of St. Lazar, which overloocked and commanded the city. Whether our renowned general had nobody in his army who knew how to approach it in form, or that he trusted entirely to the fame of his arms, I shall not determine; but, certain it is, a resolution was taken in a council of war, to attack the place with musquetry only. This was put in execution, and succeeded accordingly; the enemy giving them such a hearty reception, that the greatest part of the detachment took up their everlasting residence on the spot. — Our chief not relishing this kind of complaisance in the Spaniards, was wise enough to retreat on

board, with the remains of his army, which, from eight thousand able men, landed on the beach near Boca Chica, was now reduced to fifteen hundred fit for service. —— The sick and wounded were squeezed into certain vessels, which thence obtained the name of hospital ships, though methinks they scarce deserved such a creditable title, seeing few of them could boast of their surgeon, nurse, or cook; and the space between decks was so confined, that the miserable patients had not room to fit upright in their beds. Their wounds and stumps being neglected, contracted filth and putrefaction, and millions of maggots were hatched amidst the corruption of their sores. This inhuman disregard was imputed to the scarcity of surgeons, though it is well known that every great ship in the fleet could have spared one at least for this duty; an expedient which would have been more than sufficient to remove this shocking inconvenience: But perhaps the general was too much of a gentleman to ask a favour of this kind from his fellow chief, who, on the other hand, would not derogate so much from his own dignity, as to offer such assistance unasked; for I may venture to affirm that by this time the Demon of Discord, with her sooty wings, had breathed

her influence upon our counsels; and it might be said of these great men (I hope they will pardon the comparison) as of Caesar and Pompey, the one could not brook a superior, and the other was impatient of an equal; so that, between the pride of one, and the insolence of another, the enterprise miscarried, according to the proverb, „Between two stools the backside falls to the ground.“ — Not that I would be thought to liken any public concern to that opprobrious part of the human body, though I might with truth assert, if I durst use such a vulgar idiom, that the nation did hang an a—se at its disappointment on this occasion: neither would I presume to compare the capacity of our heroic leaders to any such wooden convenience as a joint stool, or as a close-stool; but only to signify by this simile, the mistake the people committed in trusting to the union of two instruments that were never joined.

A day or two after the attempt on St. Lazar, the admiral ordered one of the Spanish men of war we had taken to be mounted with sixteen guns, and manned with detachments from our great ships, in order to batter the town: accordingly she was towed into the inner harbour in the night, and moored within half a mile of the walls, against

which she began to fire at daybreak; and continued about six hours exposed to the opposition of at least thirty pieces of cannon, which at length obliged our men to set her on fire, and get off as well as they could in their boats. —— This piece of conduct afforded matter of speculation to all the wits either in the army or navy, who were at last fain to acknowledge it a stroke of policy above their comprehension. — Some entertained such an irreverent opinion of the admiral's understanding, as to think he expected the town would surrender to his floating battery of sixteen guns: others imagined his sole intention was to try the enemy's strength, by which he should be able to compute the number of great ships that would be necessary to force the town to a capitulation: But this last conjecture soon appeared groundlefs, in as much as no ships of any kind whatever were afterwards employed on that service. — A third sort swore, that no other cause could be assigned for this undertaking, than that which induced Don Quixotte to attack the windmill. A fourth clafs (and that the most numerous, though, without doubt, composed of the most sanguine and malicious) plainly taxed this commander with want of honesty as well as sense; and alledged that he ought

to have sacrificed private pique to the interest of his country! that where the lives of so many brave fellow-citizens were concerned, he ought to have concurred with the general, without being solicited, or even desired, towards their preservation and advantage; that if his arguments could not dissuade him from a desperate enterprise, it was his duty to have rendered it as practicable as possible, without running extreme hazard; that this could have been done, with a good prospect of succefs, by ordering five or six large ships to batter the town, while the land forces stormed the castle: by these means a considerable diversion would have been made in favour of those troops, who, in their march to the assault, and in their retreat, suffered much more from the town than from the castle; that the inhabitants, seeing themselves vigorously attacked on all hands, would have been divided, distracted, and confused, and, in all probability, unable to resist the assailants — But all these suggestions surely proceeded from ignorance and malevolence, or else the admiral would not have found it such an easy matter, at his return to England, to justify his conduct to a ministry at once so upright and discerning. — True it is, that those who undertook to vindicate him on

the spot, asserted, there was not water enough for our great ships near the town; tho' this was a little unfortunately urged, because there happened to be pilots in the fleet perfectly well acquainted with the soundings of the harbour, who affirmed there was water enough for five eighty gun ships to lie abreast, almost up at the very walls. — The disappointments we suffered occasioned an universal dejection, which was not at all alleviated by the objects that daily and hourly entertained our eyes, nor by the prospect of what must have inevitably happened, had we remained much longer in this place. Such was the economy in some ships, that rather than be at the trouble of interring the dead, their commanders ordered their men to throw their bodies overboard, many without either ballast or winding-sheet; so that numbers of human carcasses floated in the harbour, until they were devoured by sharks and carrion crows; which afforded no agreeable spectable to those who survived, — At the same time the wet season began, during which a deluge of rain falls from the rising to the setting of the sun, without intermission; and that no sooner ceases, than it begins to thunder and lighten with such

continual flashing, that one can see to read a very small print by the illumination.

CHAP. XXXIV.

An epidemic Fever rages among us —— We abandon our Conquests —— I am seized with the Distemper; write a Petition to the Captain, which is rejected —— I am in danger of Suffocation, through the Malice of Crampley; and relieved by a Serjeant —— My Fever increases —— The Chaplain wants to confeſs me — I obtain a favourable Crisis — Morgan's Affection for me proved — The Behaviour of Mackshane and Crampley towards me — Captain Oakum is removed into another Ship with his beloved Doctor —— Our new Captain described —— An Adventure of Morgan.

The change of the atmosphere, occasioned by this phenomenon, conspired with the stench that surrounded us, the heat of the climate, our own constitutions, impoverished by bad provisions, and our despair, introduced the bilious fever among us, which raged with such violence, that

three fourths of those whom it invaded, died in a deplorable manner; the colour of their skin being, by the extreme putrefaction of the juices, changed into that of soot.

Our conductors finding things in this situation, perceived it was high time to relinquish our conquests; and this we did, after having rendered their artillery uselefs, and blown up their walls with gunpowder. — Just as we sailed from Boca Chica on our return to Jamaica, I found myself threatened with the symptoms of this terrible distemper; and knowing very well that I stood no chance for my life, if I should be obliged to lie in the cockpit, which, by this time, was grown intolerable even to people in health, by reason of the heat and unwholesome smell of decayed provision, I wrote a petition to the captain, representing my case, and humbly imploring his permission to lie among the soldiers in the middle-deck, for the benefit of the air: But I might have spared myself the trouble; for this humane commander refused my request, and ordered me to continue in the place allotted for the surgeon's mates, or else be contented to lie in the hospital, which, by the bye, was three degrees more offensive, and more suffocating than our own birth below. — Another in my condition,

perhaps, would have submitted to his fate, and died in a pet; but I could not brook the thought of perishing so pitifully, after I had weathered so many gales of hard fortune: I therefore, without minding Oakum's injunction, prevailed upon the soldiers (whose good will I had acquired) to admit my hammock among them; and actually congratulated myself upon my comfortable situation; which Crampley no sooner understood, than he signified to the captain, my contempt of his orders; and was invested with power to turn me down again into my proper habitation. — This barbarous piece of revenge incensed me so much against the author, that I vowed, with bitter imprecations, to call him to a severe account, if ever it should be in my power; and the agitation of my spirits increased my fever to a violent degree. — While I lay gasping for breath in this infernal abode, I was visited by a serjeant, the bones of whose nose I had reduced and set to rights, after they had been demolished by a splinter during our last engagement: He being informed of my condition, offered me the use of his birth in the middle-deck, which was inclosed with canvafs, and well aired by a port-hole that remained open with in it. — I embraced this proposal with joy, and was immediately conducted to the place, where I

was treated, while my illness lasted, with the utmost tenderness and care by this grateful halberdier, who had no other bed for himself than a hencoop during the whole passage. — Here I lay and enjoyed the breeze; notwithstanding which, my malady gained ground, and at length my life was despaired of; though I never lost hopes of recovery, even when I had the mortification to see, from my cabin window, six or seven thrown overboard every day, who died of the same distemper. This confidence, I am persuaded, conduced a great deal to the preservation of my life, especially, when joined to another resolution I took at the beginning, namely, to refuse all medicine, which I could not help thinking co-operated with the disease, and, instead of resisting putrefaction, promoted a total degeneracy of the vital fluid. — When my friend Morgan, therefore, brought his diaphoretic boluses, I put them in my mouth, 'tis true, but without any intention of swallowing them; and when he went away, I spit them out, and washed my mouth with watergruel. I seemingly complied in this manner, that I might not affront the blood of Caractacus, by a refusal which might have intimated a diffidence of his physical capacity; for he acted as my physician; doctor Mack-

shane never once enquiring about me, or even knowing where I was. — When my distemper was at the height, Morgan thought my case desperate; and after having applied a blister to the nape of my neck, squeezed my hand, bidding me, with a woeful countenance, recommend myself to Got and my Reteemeer; then taking his leave, desired the chaplain to come and administer some spiritual consolation to me; but before he arrived, I made shift to rid myself of the troublesome application the Welchman had bestowed on my back. — The parson having felt my pulse, enquired into the nature of my complaints, hemmed a little, and began thus: „Mr. Random, God out of his infinite mercy hath been pleased to visit you with a dreadful distemper, the issue of which no man knows. — You may be permitted to recover, and live many days on the face of the earth; and, which is more probable, you may be taken away, and cut off in the flower of your youth: It is incumbent on you, therefore, to prepare for the great change, by repenting sincerely of your sins; of this there cannot be a greater sign, than an ingenuous confession, which I conjure you to make, without hesitation, or mental reservation; and when I am convinced of your sincerity, I will then give you such

comfort as the situation of your soul will admit of. Without doubt, you have been guilty of numberlefs transgressions to which youth is subject, as swearing, drunkennefs, whoredom, and adultery: tell me therefore, without reserve, the particulars of each, especially of the last, that I may be acquainted with the true state of your consciene! For no physician will prescribe for his patient until he knows the circumstances of his disease." As I was not under any apprehensions of death, I could not help smiling at the doctor's inquisitive remonstrance, which I told him savoured more of the Roman than of the Protestant church, in recommending auricular confession; a thing, in my opinion, not at all necessary to salvation, and which, for that reason, I declined. — This reply disconcerted him a little; however, he explained away his meaning, in making learned distinctions between what was absolutely necessary, and what was only convenient; and then proceeded to ask what religion I professed: I answered, that I had not as yet considered the difference of religions, consequently had not fixed on any one in particular, but that I was bred a Presbyterian. — At this word the chaplain expressed great astonishment, and said, he could not comprehend how a

Presbyterian was entitled to any post under the English government. — Then he asked if I had ever received the Sacrament, or taken the oaths; to which questions I replying in the negative, he held up his hands assured me he could do me no service, wished I might not be in a state of reprobation and returned to his mefs-mates, who were making merry in the ward-room, round a table well stored with bumbo *) and wine.

This insinuation, terrible as it was, had not such an effect upon me as the fever, which, soon after he had left me, grew outrageous. I began to see strange chimeras, and concluded myself on the point of becoming delirious: in the mean time being in great danger of suffocation, I started up in a kind of frantic fit, with an intention to plunge myself into the sea; and as my friend the serjeant was not present, would certainly have cooled myself to some purpose, had I not perceived a moisture upon my thigh, as I endeavoured to get out of my hammock: The appearance of this renewed my hopes, and I had reflection and resolution enough to take the advantage of this

*) Bumbo is a liquor composed of rum, sugar, water and nutmeg.

favourable symptom, by tearing the shirt from my body, and the sheets from my bed, and wrapping myself in a thick planket, in which inclosure, for about a quarter of an hour, I felt the pains of hell: but it was not long before I was recompensed for my suffering by a profuse sweat, that bursting from the whole surface of my skin, in lefs than two hours, relieved me from all my complaints, except that of weaknefs; and left me as hungry as a kite. — I enjoyed a very comfortable nap; after which I was regaling myself with the agreeable reverie of my future happinefs, when I heard Morgan, on the outside of the curtain, ask the serjeant, if I was alive still? „Alive! (cried the other.) God forbid he should be otherwise! He has lain quiet these five hours, and I do not choose to disturb him, for sleep will do him great service." — „Aye, (said my fellow mate,) he sleeps so sound, (look you) that he will never waken till the great trump plows. — Got be merciful to his soul. —— He has paid his debt like an honest man. — Aye, and moreover, he is at rest from all persecutions, and troubles, and affiictions, of which, Got knows, and I know, he had his own share. — Ochree! Ochree! he was a promising youth indeed." — So saying, he

groaned grievously, and began to whine in such a manner, as persuaded me he had a real friendship for me — The serjeant, alarmed, at his words, came into the birth, and while he looked upon me, I smiled, and tipt him the wink. He immediately guessed my meaning, and, remaining silent, Morgan was confirmed in his opinion of my being dead; whereupon he approached with tears in his eyes, in order to indulge his grief with a sight of the object: And I counterfeited death so well, by fixing my eyes, and dropping my under-jaw, that he said, „There he lies, no petter than a lump of clay, Got help me.“ And observed, by the distortion of my face, that I must have had a strong struggle. I should not have been able to contain myself much longer, when he began to perform the last duty of a friend, in closing my eyes and mouth: upon which I suddenly snapped at his fingers, and discomposed him so much, that he started back, turned pale as ashes, and stared like the picture of horror. Although I could not help laughing at his appearance, I was concerned for his situation, and stretched out my hand, telling him, I hoped to live and eat some salmagundy of his making in England. It was some time before he

could recollect himself so far as to feel my pulse, and enquire into the particulars of my disease: But when he found I had enjoyed a favourable crisis, he congratulated me upon my good fortune; not failing to ascribe it, under Got, to the blister he had applied to my back at his last visit; which, by the bye, said he, must now be removed and dressed. He was actually going to fetch dressings, when I, feigning astonishment, said, „Blefs me! sure you never applied a blister to me — there is nothing on my back, I assure you." — But he could not be convinced till he had examined it, and then endeavoured to conceal his confusion, by expressing his surprise in finding the skin untouched, and the plaster missing. In order to excuse myself for paying so little regard to his prescription, I pretended to have been insensible when it was put on, and to have pulled it off afterwards in a fit of delirium. This apology satisfied my friend, who on this occasion abated a good deal of his stiffnefs in regard to punctilio; and as we were now safely arrived at Jamaica, where I had the benefit of fresh provisions, and other refreshments, I recovered strength every day, and in a short time my health and vigour were perfectly re-established. — When I got up at first, and was just able to crawl about the

deck with a staff in my hand, I met doctor Mackshane, who passed by me with a disdainful look, and did not vouchsafe to honour me with one word. After him came Crampley, who, strutting up to me, with a fierce countenance, pronounced, „Here's fine discipline on board, when such lazy skulking sons of bitches as you are allowed, on pretence of sicknefs, to lollop at your ease, while your betters are kept to hard duty!“ The sight and behaviour of this malicious scoundrel enraged me so much, that I could scarce refrain from laying my cudgel acrofs his pate; but when I considered my present feeblenefs, and the enemies I had in the ship, who wanted only a pretence to ruin me, I restrained my passion, and contented myself with telling him, I had not forgot his insolence and malice, and that I hoped we should meet one day on shore. — At this declaration he grinned, shook his fist, and swore he longed for nothing more than such an opportunity.

Mean while our ship was ordered to be heaved down, victualled and watered, for her return to England; and our captain, for some reason or other, not thinking it convenient for him to revisit his native country at this time, exchanged with a gentleman, who, on the other hand, wished for nothing so

much as to be safe without the tropic; all his care and tendernefs of himself being insufficient to preserve his complexion from the injuries of the sun and weather.

Our tyrant having left the ship, and carried his favourite Mackshane along with him, to my inexpressible satisfaction, our new commander came on board in a ten-oar'd barge, overshadowed with a vast umbrella, and appeared in every thing the reverse of Oakum, being a tall, thin young man, dressed in this manner: A white hat, garnished with a red feather, adorned his head, from whence his hair flowed upon his shoulders in ringlets, tied behind with a ribbon. — His coat, consisting of pink-coloured silk, lined with white, by the elegance of the cut, retired backward, as it were, to discover a white sattin waistcoat embroidered with gold, unbuttoned at the upper part to display a broach set with garnets, that glittered in the breast of his shirt, which was of the finest cambric, edged with real Mechlin: the knees of his crimson velvet breeches scarce descended so low as to meet his silk stockings, which rose without spot or wrinkle on his meagre legs, from shoes of blue Moroquin, studded with diamond buckles that flamed forth rivals to the sun!

A steel hilted sword, inlaid with gold, and decked with a knot of ribbon, which fell down in a rich tafsle, equipped his side; and an amber headed cane hung dangling from his wrist: — But the most remarkable part of his furniture were, a mask on his face, and white gloves on his hands, which did not seem to be put on with an intention to be pulled off occasionally, but were fixed with a curious ring on the little finger of each hand. — In this garb, Captain Whiffle (for that was his name) took possession of the ship, surrounded with a crowd of attendants, all of whom, in their different degrees, seemed to be of their patron's disposition; and the air was so impregnated with perfumes, that one may venture to affirm, the clime of Arabia Foelix was not half so sweet scented. — My fellow-mate, observing no surgeon among his train, thought he had found an occasion too favourable for himself to be neglected; and remembering the old proverb, „Spare to speak, and spare to speed,“ resolved to solicit the new captain's interest immediately, before any other surgeon could be appointed for the ship. With this view, he repaired to the cabin in his ordinary drefs, consisting of a check-shirt and trowsers, a brown linen waistcoat, and a night-cap of the same,

(neither of them very clean,) which, for his future misfortunes, happened to smell strong of tobacco. — Entering without any ceremony into this sacred place, he found Captain Whiffle reposing upon a couch, with a wrapper of fine chintz about his body, and a muslin cap, bordered with lace, about his head; and after several low congee's began in this manner: —— „Sir, I hope you will forgive, and excuse, and pardon the presumption of one who has not the honour of being known unto you, but who is, neverthelefs, a shentleman porn and pred, and moreover, has had misfortunes, Got help me, in the world.“ —— Here he was interrupted by the captain, who, on seeing him, had started up with great amazement at the novelty of the apparition; and having recollected himself, pronounced, with a look and tone signifying disdain, curiosity, and surprise, „Zauns! who art thou?“ —— „I am surgeon's first mate on board of this ship, (replied Morgan;) and I most vehemently desire and beseech you, with all submission, to be pleased to condescend and vouchsafe to enquire into my character, and my pehaviour, and my deserts, which under Got, I hope, will entitle me to the vacancy of surgeon.“ —— As he proceeded in his speech, he continued advancing

towards the captain, whose nostrils were no sooner saluted with the aromatic flavour that exhaled from him, than he cried with great emotion, „Heaven preserve me! I am suffocated! —— Fellow, fellow, away with thee. —— Curse thee, fellow! get thee gone. — I shall be stunk to death!" At the noise of his outcries, his servants ran into his apartment, and he accosted them thus: „Villains! cut-throats! traitors! I am betrayed! I am sacrificed! — Will you not carry that monster away? or must I be stifled with the stench of him! Oh! oh!" — With these interjections, he sunk down upon his settee in a fit; his *valet de chambre* plied him with a smelling bottle; one footman chafed his temples with Hungary water, another sprinkled the floor with spirits of lavender, a third pushed Morgan out of the cabin; who, coming to the place where I was, sat down with a demure countenance, and, according to his custom, when he received any indignity which he durst not revenge, began to sing a Welch ditty. — I guessed he was under some agitation of spirits, and desired to know the cause; but, instead of answering me directly, he asked with great emotion, if I thought him a monster and a stinkard? „A monster and a stinkard! (said I, with some surprise;) did

any body call you so?" — Got is my judge (replied he) Captain Fifle did call me both; aye, and all the water in the Tawy will not wash it out of my remembrance. —— I do affirm, and vouch, and maintain, with my soul and my pody, and my plood, look you, that I have no smells about me, but such as a Christian ought to have, except the effluvia of tobacco; which is a cephalic, odoriferous, aromatic herb, and he is the son of a mountain-goat who says otherwise. — As for my being a monster, let that be as it is: I am as Got was pleased to create me, which, peradventure, is more than I shall aver of him who gave me that title; for I will proclaim it before the world, that he is disguised, and transfigured, and transmographied with affectation and whimsies; and that he is more like a papoon than one of the human race."

CHAP. XXXV.

Captain Whiffle sends for me —— His Situation described —— His Surgeon arrives, prescribes for him, and puts him to Bed — a Bed is put up for Mr. Simper, contiguous to the State-room, which, with other parts of the Captain's Behaviour, gives the

Ship's Company a very unfavourable Idea of their Commander —— I am detained in the West Indies, by the Admiral, and go on Board of the Lizzard Sloop of War in quality of Surgeon's Mate, where I make myself known to the Surgeon, who treats me very kindly —— I go on Shore, sell my Ticket, purchase Necessaries, and at my return on Board am surprised at the Sight of Crampley, who is appointed Lieutenant of the Sloop —— We sail on a Cruize —— Take a Prize, in which I arrive at Port Morant, under the Command of my Messmate, with whom I live in great Harmony.

He was going on with an eulogium upon the captain, when I received a message to clean myself, and go up to the great cabin: and with this command I instantly complied, sweetening myself with rose water from the medicine chest. When I entered the room, I was ordered to stand by the door; until Captain Whiffle had reconnoitered me at a distance with a spy glafs. He having consulted one sense in this manner, bade me advance gradually, that his nose might have intelligence, before it could be much offended: I therefore approached with great caution and succefs, and he was pleased to say, „Aye, this

creature is tolerable." — I found him lolling on his couch with a languishing air, his head supported by his *valet de chambre*, who from time to time applied a smelling bottle to his nose, —— „Vergette, (said he, in a squeaking tone) dost thou think this wretch (meaning me) will do me no injury? may I venture to submit my arm to him? —— „Pon my vord, (replied the valet,) I do think dat dere be great occasion for your honour losing one small quantite of blodt; and the young man ave quelque chose of de bonne mien." — „Well then (said his master) I think I must venture." — Then addressing himself to me, „Hast thou ever blooded any body but brutes? — But I need not ask thee, for thou wilt tell me a most damnable lie." —— „Brutes, Sir, (answered I, pulling down his glove, in order to feel his pulse;) I never meddle with brutes." — „What the devil art thou about? (cried he;) dost thou intend to twist off my hand? Gad's curse! my arm is benumbed up to the very shoulder! Heaven have mercy upon me! must I perish under the hands of savages? What an unfortunate dog was I to come on board without my own surgeon, Mr. Simper." — I craved pardon for having handled him so roughly, and with the utmost care and tenderneſs tied up

his arm with a fillet of silk. While I was feeling for the vein, he desired to know how much blood I intended to take from him, and when I answered, „Not above twelve ounces," started up with a look full of horror, and bade me begone, swearing I had a design upon his life. — Vergette appeased him with difficulty; and opening a bureau, took out a pair of scales, in one of which was placed a small cup; and putting them into my hand, told me, the captain never lost above an ounce and three drachms at one time. — While I prepared for this important evacuation, there came into the cabin a young man, gayly dressed, of a very delicate complexion, with a kind of languid smile on his face, which seemed to have been rendered habitual by a long course of affectation. —— The captain no sooner perceived him, than rising hastily, he flew into his arms, crying, „O! my dear Simper! I am excessively disordered! I have been betrayed, frighted, murdered, by the negligence of my servants, who suffered a beast, a mule, a bear, to surprize me, and stink me into convulsions with the fumes of tobacco." — Simper, who by this time, I found, was obliged to art for the clearneſs of his complexion, assumed an air of softneſs, and sympathy,

and lamented, with many tender expressions of sorrow, the sad accident that had thrown him into that condition; then feeling his patient's pulse on the outside of his glove, gave it as his opinion, that his disorder was entirely nervous, and that some drops of tincture of castor and liquid laudanum would be of more service to him than bleeding, by bridling the inordinate sallies of his spirits, and composing the fermentation of his bile — I was therefore sent to prepare this prescription, which was administered in a glaſs of sack posset; after the captain had been put to bed, and orders sent to the officers on the quarter-deck, to let no-body walk on that side under which-he lay.

While the captain enjoyed his repose, the doctor watched over him, and indeed became so necessary, that a cabin was made for him contiguous to the state-room, where Whiffle slept, that he might be at hand in case of accidents in the night. —— Next day, our commander being happily recovered, gave orders, that none of the lieutenants should appear upon deck without a wig, sword, and ruffles; nor any midshipman, or other petty officer, be seen with a check shirt, or dirty linen. —— He also prohibited any person whatever, except Simper, and his own servants, from coming

into the great cabin, without first sending in to obtain leave. — These singular regulations did not prepossefs the ship's company in his favour; but, on the contrary, gave scandal an opportunity to be very busy with his character, and accused him of maintaining a correspondence with his surgeon not fit to be named.

In a few weeks our ship being under sailing orders, I was in hope of revisiting my native country in a very short time, when the admiral's surgeon came on board, and sending for Morgan and me to the quarter-deck, gave us to unterstand there was a great scarcity of surgeons in the West Indies; that he was commanded to detain one mate out of every great ship that was bound for England; and desired us to agree between ourselves, before the next day at that hour, which of us should stay behind. — We were thunderstruck at this proposal, and stared at one another some time without speaking. At length the Welchman broke silence, and offered to remain in the West Indies, provided the admiral would give him a surgeon's warrant immediately: but he was told there was no want of chief surgeons, and that he must be contented with the station of mate, till he should be further provided for in due course: Where-upon Morgan flatly refused to quit the

ship for which the commissioners of the navy had appointed him; and the other told him as plainly, that if we could not determine the affair by ourselves before to-morrow morning, he must cast lots, and abide by his chance. —— When I recalled to my remembrance the miseries I had undergone in England, where I had not one friend to promote my interest, or favour my advancement in the navy, and at the same time reflected on the present dearth of surgeons in the West Indies, and the unhealthineſs of the climate, which every day almost reduced the number, I could not help thinking my ſucceſs would be much more certain and expeditious, by my staying where I was, than by my returning to Europe. —— I therefore resolved to comply with a good grace; and next day, when we were ordered to throw the dice, told Morgan he need not trouble himself, for I would voluntarily submit to the admiral's pleasure. —— This frank declaration was commended by the gentleman, who assured me, it should not fare the worse with me for my resignation. Indeed, he was as good as his word, and that very afternoon procured a warrant, appointing me surgeon's mate of the Lizzard sloop of war, which put me on a footing with every first mate in the service.

My ticket being made out, I put my chest and bedding on board a canoe that lay along-side, and having shook hands with my trusty friend the serjeant, and honest Jack Rattlin, who was bound for Greenwich hospital, I took my leave of Morgan with many tears, after we had exchanged our sleeve-buttons as remembrances of each other. — Having presented my new warrant to the captain of the Lizzard, I enquired for the doctor, whom I no sooner saw, than I recollected him to be one of those young fellows with whom I had been committed to the round-house, during our frolic with Jackson, as I have related before. —— He received me with a good deal of courtesy; and when I put him in mind of our former acquaintance, expressed great joy at seeing me again, and recommended me to an exceeding good mefs, composed of the gunner and master's mate. — As there was not one sick person in the ship, I got leave to go ashore, next day, with the gunner, who recommended me to a Jew, that bought my ticket at the rate of 40 *per cent.* discount; and having furnished myself with what necessaries I wanted, returned on board in the evening, and to my surprise found my old antagonist Crampley walking upon deck. —

Though I did not fear his enmity, I was shocked at his appearance, and communicated my sentiments on that subject to Mr. Tomlins the surgeon, who told me that Crampley, by dint of some friends about the admiral, had procured a commission, constituting him lieutenant on board the Lizzard: and advised me, now he was my superior officer, to behave with some respect towards him, or else he would find a thousand opportunities of using me ill. —— This advice was a bitter potion to me, whom pride and resentment had rendered utterly incapable of the least submission to, or even of a reconciliation with, the wretch who had, on many occasions, treated me so inhumanly: However, I resolved to have as little connection as possible with him, and to ingratiate myself as much as I could with the rest of the officers, whose friendship might be a bulwark to defend me from the attempts of his malice.

In lefs than a week we sailed on a cruize, and having weathered the east end of the island, had the good fortune to take a Spanish barcolongo, with her prize, which was an English ship bound for Bristol, that had sailed from Jamaica a fortnight before without convoy. All the prisoners who were well, we

put on shore on the north-side of the island: the prizes were manned with Englishmen, and the command of the barcolongo given to my friend the master's mate, with orders to carry them into Port Morant, and there to remain until the Lizzard's cruize should be ended, at which time she would touch at the same place in her way to Port-Royal. —— With him I was sent to attend the wounded Spaniards as well as Englishmen, who amounted to sixteen, and to take care of them on shore, in a house that was to be hired as an hospital. — This destination gave me a great deal of pleasure, as I should, for some time, be freed from the arrogance of Crampley, whose inveteracy against me had already broke out on two or three occasions since he was become a lieutenant. — My mefs-mate, who very much resembled my uncle, both in figure and disposition, treated me on board of the prize with utmost civility and confidence; and, among other favours, made me a present of a silver hilted hanger, and a pair of pistols mounted with the same metal, which fell to his share in plundering the enemy. —— We arrived safely at Morant, and going on shore, pitched upon an empty store-house, which we hired for the reception of the wounded, who were brought to it

next day, with beds and other necessaries; and four of the ship's company appointed to attend them, and obey me.

CHAP. XXXVI.

A strange Adventure —— In consequence of which I am extremely happy —— Crampley does me ill Offices with the Captain: But his Malice is defeated by the good Nature and Friendship of the Surgeon —— We return to Port-Royal —— Our Captain gets the command of a larger Ship, and is succeeded by an old Man —— Brayl is provided for —— We receive Orders to sail for England.

When my patients were all in a fair way, my companion and commander, whose name was Brayl, carried me up the country to the house of a rich planter, with whom he was acquainted; where we were sumptuously entertained, and in the evening set out on our return to the ship. When we had walked about a mile by moon-light, we perceived a horseman behind us, who coming up, wished us *good even*, and asked which way we went. His voice, which was

quite familiar to me, no sooner struck my ear, than, in spite of all my resolution and reflection, my hair bristled up, and I was seized with a violent fit of trembling, which Brayl misinterpreting, bade me be under no concern. — I told him he was mistaken in the cause of my disorder; and addressing myself to the person on horseback, said, „I could have sworn, by your voice, that you was a dear friend of mine, if I had not been certain of his death.“ To this addreſs, after some pause, he replied, „There are many voices as well as faces that resemble one another; but pray, what was your friend's name?“ I satisfied him in that particular, and gave a short detail of the melancholy fate of Thompson. not without many sighs and some tears. A silence ensued which lasted some minutes, and then the conversation turned on different subjects, till we arrived at a house on the road, where the horseman alighted, and begged, with so much earnestneſs, that we would go in and drink a bowl of punch with him, that we could not resist. — But if I was alarmed at his voice, what must my amazement be, when I discovered by the light, the very person of my lamented friend! Perceiving my confusion, which was extreme, he clasped me in his

arms, and bedewed my face with tears. — It was some time ere I recovered the use of my reason, overpowered with this event, and longer still before I could speak. So that all I was capable of was to return his embraces, and to mingle the overflowings of my joy with his; whilst honest Brayl, affected with the scene, wept as fast as either of us, and signified his participation of our happinefs, by hugging us b th, and capering about the room like a madman. — At length I retrieved the use of my tongue, and cried, „Is it possible? can you be my friend Thompson? No certainly. Alas! he was drowned! and I am now under the deception of a dream!“ —— He was at great pains to convince me of his being the individual person whom I regetted, and bidding me sit down and compose myself, promised to explain his sudden disappearance from the Thunder, and to account for his being at present in the land of the living. — This task he acquitted himself of, after I had drank a glafs of punch, and recruited my spirits, by informing us, that, with a determination to rid himself of a miserable existence, he had gone in the night time to the head, while the ship was on her way, from whence he slipped down, as softly as he could, by the

bows, into the sea, where, after he was heartily ducked, he began to repent of his precipitation; and as be could swim very well, kept himself above water, in hopes of being taken up by some of the ships astern; — that in this situation, he hailed a large vessel, and begged to be taken in, but was answered that she was a heavy sailer, and therefore they did not choose to loose time by bringing to; however, they threw an old chest overboard for his convenience, and told him, that some of the ships astern would certainly save him; — that no other vessel came within sight or cry of him for the space of three hours, during which time he had the mortification to find himself in the middle of the ocean alone, without other support or resting place but what a few crazy boards afforded; till at last he discerned a small sloop steering towards him, upon which he set up his throat, and had the good fortune to be heard, and rescued from the dreary waste by their boat, which was hoisted out on purpose. — „I was no sooner brought on board (continued he) than I fainted; and when I recovered my senses, found myself in bed, regaled with a most noisome swell of onions and cheese, which made me think at first, that I was in my

own hammock, along-side of honest Morgan, and that all which had passed was no more than a dream. — Upon enquiry I understood that I was on board of a schooner belonging to Rhode Island, bound for Jamaica, with a cargo of geese, pigs, onions, and cheese; and that the master's name was Robertson, by birth a North Briton; whom I knew at first sight to be an old school-fellow of mine. — When I discovered myself to him, he was transported with surprise and joy, and begged to know the occasion of my misfortune, which I did not think fit to disclose, because I knew his notions with regard to religion were very severe and confined; therefore contented myself with telling him, I fell over-board by accident; but made no scruple of explaining the nature of my disagreeable station, and of acquainting him with my determined purpose never to return to the Thunder man of war. — Although he was not of my opinion in that particular, knowing I must lose my cloaths, and what pay was due to me, unlefs I went back to my duty; yet, when I described the circumstances of the hellish life I led, under the tyrannic sway of Oakum and Mackshane; and among other grievances, hinted a dissatisfaction of the irreligious deportment of my ship-

mates, and the want of the true Presbyterian gospel doctrine; he changed his sentiments, and conjured me with great vehemence and zeal to lay aside all thoughts of rising in the navy; and that he might shew how much he had my interest at heart, undertook to provide for me in some shape or other, before he should leave Jamaica. — This promise he performed to my heart's desire; by recommending me to a gentleman of fortune, with whom I have lived ever since, in quality of surgeon and overseer to his plantations. — He and his lady are now at Kingston, so that I am, for the present, master of this house, to which, from my soul, I bid you welcome, and hope you will favour me with your company during the remaining part of the night." — I needed not a second invitation; but Mr. Brayl, who was a diligent and excellent officer, could not be persuaded to sleep out of the ship: however, he supped with us, and, after having drank a chearful glafs, set out for the vessel, which was not above three miles from the place, escorted by a couple of stout negroes, whom Mr. Thompson ordered to conduct him. — Never were two friends more happy in the conversation of each other than we, forthe time it lasted; I related to him the particulars of

our attempt upon Carthagena, of which he had heard but an imperfect account; and he gratified me with a narration of every little incident of his life since we parted. — He assured me it was with the utmost difficulty, he could resist his inclination of coming down to Port-Royal to see Morgan and me, of whom he had heard no tidings since the day of our separation; but that he was restrained by the fear of being detained as a deserter. — He told me, that when he heard my voice in the dark, he was almost as much surprised as I was at seeing him afterwards; and in the confidence of friendship, disclosed a passion he entertained for the only daughter of the gentleman with whom he lived, who, by his description, was a very amiable young lady, and did not disdain his addresses; that he was very much favoured by her parents, and did not despair of obtaining their consent to the match, which would at once render him independent of the world. — I congratulated him on his good fortune, which he protested should never make him forget his friends; and towards morning we betook ourselves to rest.

Next day he accompanied me to the ship, where Mr. Brayl entertained him at dinner; and we having spent the afternoon together,

he took his leave of us in the evening, after he had forced upon me ten pistoles, as a small token of his affection. — In short, while we staid here, we saw one another every day, and generally ate at the same table, which was plentifully supplied by him with all kinds of poultry, butcher's meat, oranges, limes, lemons, pine apples, Madeira wine, and excellent rum; so that this small interval of ten days, was by far the most agreeable period of my life,

At length the Lizard arrived; and my patients being all fit for duty; they and I were ordered on board of her, where I understood from Mr. Tomlins, that there was a shyneſs between the Lieutenant and him, on my account; that rancorous villain having taken the opportunity of my absence, to fill the captain's ears with a thousand scandalous stories to my prejudice; among other things affirming, that I had been once transported for theft, and that when I was in the Thunder man of war, I had been whipt for the same crime, — The surgeon, on the other hand, having heard my whole story from my own mouth, defended me strenuously, and in the course of that good natured office, recounted all the instances of Crampley's malice against me, while I

remained on board of that ship. — Which declaration, while it satisfied the captain of my innocence, made the lieutenant as much my defender's enemy as mine. — This infernal behaviour of Crampley, with regard to me, added such fuel to my former resentment, that at certain times, I was quite beside myself with the desire of revenge, and was even tempted to pistol him on the quarter-deck, though an infamous death must inevitably have been my reward. — But the surgeon, who was my confident, argued against such a desperate action so effectually, that I stifled the flame which consumed me for the present, and resolved to wait for a more convenient opportunity. — In the mean time, that Mr. Tomlins might be the more convinced of the wrongs I suffered by this fellow's slander, I begged he would go and visit Mr. Thompson, whose wonderful escape, I had made him acquainted with, and enquire of him into the particulars of my conduct, while he was my fellow-mate. This request the surgeon complied with, more from a curiosity, to see a person whose fate had been so extraordinary, than to confirm his good opinion of me, which he assured me was already firmly established. — He therefore set out for the dwelling place of

my friend, with the letter of introduction from me: and being received with all the civility and kindnefs I expected, returned to the ship, not only satisfied with my character, beyond the power of doubt or insinuation, but also charmed with the affability and conversation of Thompson, who loaded him and me with presents of fresh stock, liquors and fruit. As he would not venture to come and see us on board, lest Crampley should know and detain him; when the time of our departure approached, I obtained leave to go and bid him farewel. — After we had vowed an everlasting friendship, he pressed upon me a purse with four doubloons, which I refused as long as I could, without giving umbrage; and having cordially embraced each other, I returned on board, where I found a small box, with a letter directed to me, to the care of Mr. Tomlins — Knowing the superscription to be of Thompson's handwriting, I opened it with some surprize, and learned that this generous friend, not content with loading me with the presents already mentioned, had sent for my use and acceptance, half a dozen fine shirts, and as many linen waistcoats and caps, with twelve pair of new thread stockings. — Being thus provided with money, and all necessaries for

the comfort of life, I began to look upon myself as a gentleman of some consequence, and felt my pride dilate a pace.

Next day we sailed for Port Royal, where we arrived safely with our prizes; and as there was nothing to do on board, I went ashore, and having purchased a laced waistcoat, with some other clothes at a sale, made a swaggering figure for some days, among the taverns, where I ventured to play a little at hazard, and came off with fifty pistoles in my pocket. Meanwhile our captain was promoted to a ship of twenty guns, and the command of the Lizard given to a man turned of fourscore, who had been lieutenant since the reign of King William, and notwithstanding his long service, would have probably died in that station, had he not applied some prize-money he had lately received, to make interest with his superiors. My friend Brayl was also made an officer, about the same time, after he had served in quality of midshipman and mate, five and twenty years. Soon after these alterations, the admiral pitched upon our ship to carry home dispatches for the ministry; and we set sail for England, having first scrubbed her bottom, and taken in provision and water for the occasion.

CHAP. XXXVII.

We depart for Europe — A misunderstanding arises between the Captain and Surgeon, through the scandalous Aspersions of Crampley — The Captain dies — Crampley tyrannises over the Surgeon, who falls a Victim to his Cruelty. — I am also ill used — The Ship strikes — The Behaviour of Crampley, and the Seamen on that Occasion — I get on Shore, challenge the Captain to single Combat — Am treacherously knocked down, wounded and robbed.

Now that I could return to my native country in a creditable way, I felt excessive pleasure in finding myself out of sight of that fatal island, which has been the grave of so many Europeans; and as I was accommodated with every thing to render the passage agreeable, I resolved to enjoy myself as much as the insolence of Crampley would permit. — This insidious slanderer had found means already to cause a misunderstanding between the surgeon and captain, who by his age and infirmities was rendered intolerably peevish, his disposition having also been soured by a long course of disappointments. He had a particular aversion to all young men, especially to surgeons, whom he

considered as unnecessary animal s onboard of a ship; and in consequence of these sentiments, never consulted the doctor, notwithstanding his being seized with a violent fit of the gout and gravel; but applied to a cask of Holland's gin, which was his sovereign prescription against all distempers: Whether he was at this time too sparing, or took an over dose of his cordial, certain it is, he departed in the night, without any ceremony, which indeed was a thing he always despised, and was found stiff, next morning, to the no small satisfaction of Crampley, who succeeded to the command of the vessel. For that very reason Mr. Tomlins and I had no cause to rejoice at this event, fearing that the tyranny of our new commander would now be as unlimited as his power. — The first day of his command justified our apprehension: For on pretence that the decks were too much crowded, he ordered the surgeon's hen-coops, with all his fowls to be thrown overboard: and at the same time prohibited him and me from appearing on the quarter-deck. Mr. Tomlins could not help complaining of these injuries, and in the course of his expostulation dropped some hasty words, of which Crampley taking hold, confined him to his cabin, where, in a few days, for want of air, he was attacked by a

fever, which soon put an end to his life, after he had made his will, by which he bequeathed all his estate, personal and real, to his sister; and left to me his watch and instruments as memorials of his friendship. — I was penetrated with grief on this melancholy occasion; the more because there was nobody on board, to whom I could communicate my sorrows, or of whom I could receive the least consolation or advice. —— Crampley was so far from discovering the least remorse for his barbarity, at the news of the surgeon's death, that he insulted his memory in the most abusive manner, and affirmed he had poisoned himself out of pure fear, dreading to be brought to a court-martial for mutiny; for which reason, he would not suffer the service of the dead to be read over his body, before it was thrown over-board.

Nothing but a speedy deliverance could have supported me under the brutal sway of this bashaw, who, to render my life the more irksome, signified to my mefsmates, a desire that I should be expelled from their society. — This was no sooner hinted, than they granted his request; and I was fain to eat in a solitary manner by myself during the rest of the passage, which, however, soon drew to a period.

We had been seven weeks at sea, when the gunner told the captain, that by his reckoning we must be in soundings, and desired he would order the lead to be heaved.— Crampley swore, he did not know how to keep the ship's way, for we were not within a hundred leagues of soundings, and therefore he would not give himself the trouble to cast the lead. — Accordingly we continued our course all that afternoon and night, without shortening sail, although the gunner pretended to discover Scilly light; and next morning protested in form against the captain's conduct; for which conduct he was put in confinement. — We discovered no land all that day, and Crampley was still so infatuated as to neglect sounding; but at three o'clock in the morning, the ship struck, and remained fast on a sand-bank. This accident alarmed the whole crew; the boat was immediately hoisted out, but as we could not discern which way the shore lay, we were obliged to wait for day-ligt. In the mean time, the wind encreased, and the waves beat against the sloop with such violence, that we expected she would have gone to pieces. The gunner was released and consulted: He advised the captain to cut away the mast, in order to lighten her; this expedient was performed

without succefs: the sailors seeing things in a desperate situation, according to custom, broke up the chests belonging to the officers, dressed themselves in their clothes, drank their liquors without ceremony; and drunkennefs, tumult and confusion ensued. — In the midst of this uproar, I went below to secure my own effects; and found the carpenter's mate hewing down the purser's cabin with his hatchet, whistling all the while with great composure. When I asked his intention in so doing, he replied very calmly, „I only want to taste the purser's rum, that's all, master.“ — At that instant the purser coming down, and seeing his effects going to wreck, complained bitterly of the injustice done to him, and asked the fellow, what occasion he had for liquor, when, in all likelihood, he should be in eternity in a few minutes. „All's one for that (said the plunderer) let us live while we can.“ — „Miserable wretch that thou art, (cried the purser) what must be thy lot in the other world, if thou diest in the commission of robbery?“ — „Why hell, I suppose,“ replied the other, with great deliberation; while the purser fell on his knees, and begged of heaven that we might not all perish for the sake of one Jonas. — During this dialogue, I cloathed myself in my best

apparel, girded on my hanger, stuck my pistols loaded in my belt, disposed of all my valuable moveables about my person, and came upon deck with a resolution of taking the first opportunity to get on shore, which when the day broke, appeared at the distance of three miles a-head. — Crampley, finding his efforts to get the ship off ineffectual, determined to consult his own safety, by going into the boat, which he had no sooner done, than the ship's company followed so fast, that she would have sunk along-side, had not some one wiser than the rest, cut the rope and put off. — But before this happened, I had made several attempts to get in, and was always baulked by the captain, who was so eager in excluding me, that he did not mind the endeavours of any other body. — Enraged at this inhuman partiality, and seeing the rope cut, I pulled one of my pistols from my belt; and cocking it, swore I would shoot any man who should presume to obstruct my entrance. So saying, I leaped with my full exertion, and got on board of the boat with the lofs of the skin of my shins. — I chanced in my descent to overturn Crampley, who no sooner got up than he struck at me several times with a cutlafs, and ordered the

men to throw me overboard; but they were too anxious about their own safety to mind what he said. — Though the boat was very deeply loaded, and the sea terribly high, we made shift to get upon dry land in lefs than an hour after we parted from the sloop. — As soon as I set foot on *terra firma*, my indignation, which had boiled so long within me, broke out against Crampley, whom I immediately challenged to single combat, presenting my pistols that he might take his choice: He took one without hesitation, and, before I could cock the other, fired in my face, throwing the pistol after the shot. — I felt myself stunned and, imagining the bullet had entered my brain, discharged mine as quick as possible, that I might not die unrevenged: then, flying upon my antagonist, knocked out several of his fore teeth with the butt end of the piece, and would certainly have made an end of him with that instrument, had he not disengaged himself, and seized his cutlafs which he had given to his servant when he received the pistol. Seeing him armed in this manner, I drew my hanger, and, having flung my pistol at his head, closed with him in a transport of fury, and thrust my weapon into his mouth, which enlarged it on one side to his ear. — Whether the

smart of this wound disconcerted him, or the unevenneſs of the ground made him reel, I know not; but he staggered some paces back: I followed close, and with one stroke cut the tendons on the back of his hand, upon which the cutlaſs dropped, and he remained defenceleſs. — I know not with what cruelty my rage might have inspired me, if I had not at that instant been felled to the ground by a blow on the back part of my head, which deprived me of all sensation. — In this deplorable situation, exposed to the rage of an incensed barbarian, and rapine of an inhuman crew, I remained for some time; and whether any disputes arose among them during the state of my annihilation, I cannot pretend to determine; but in one particular they seemed to have been unanimous, and acted with equal dexterity and dispatch; for, when I recovered the use of understanding, I found myself alone in a desolate place, stript of my clothes, money, watch, buckles, and every thing but my shoes, stockings, breeches and shirt. — What a discovery must this have been to me, who but an hour before, was worth sixty guineas in cash! I cursed the hour of my birth, the parents that gave me being, the sea that did not swallow me up, the poniard of the

enemy, which could not find the way to my heart, the villainy of those who had left me in that miserable condition; and in the extacy of despair, resolved to lie still where I was and perish.

CHAP. XXXVIII.

I get up, and crawl into a Barn, where I am in Danger of perishing through the Fear of the Country People — Their Inhumanity — I am succoured by a reputed Witch — Her Story — Her Advice — She recommends me as a Valet to a single Lady, whose Character she explains.

But as I lay ruminating, my passion insensibly abated, I considered my situation in quite another light from that in which it appeared to me at first, and the result of my deliberation was, to rise if I could, and crawl to the next inhabited place for assistance. — With some difficulty I got upon my legs, and, having examined my body, found I had received no other injury than two large contused wounds, one on the fore, and another on the hinder part of my head, which seemed to be occasioned by the same weapon: namely, the butt end of a pistol. I looked towards

the sea, but could discern no remains of the ship; so that I concluded she was gone to pieces, and that those who remained in her, had perished: But, as I afterwards learned, the gunner, who had more sagacity than Crampley, observing that it was flood when he left her, and that she would probably float at high water, made no noise about getting on shore, but continued on deck, in hopes of bringing her safe into some harbour, after the commander should have deserted her, for which piece of service he expected, no doubt, to be handsomely rewarded. This scheme he accordingly executed, and was promised great things by the admiralty, for saving his Majesty's ship; but I never heard he reaped the fruits of his expectation, — As for my own part, I directed my course towards a small cottage I perceived, and in the road picked up, a seaman's old jacket, which I suppose the thief who dressed himself in my clothes had thrown away; this was a very comfortable acquisition to me, who was almost stiff with cold; I therefore put it on, and as my natural heat revived, my wounds, which had left off bleeding, burst out afresh: so that finding myself excessively exhausted, I was about to lie down in the fields, when I discovered

a barn on my left hand, within a few yards of me: thither I made shift to stagger, and, finding the door open, went in, but saw nobody; however, I threw myself upon a truſs of straw, hoping to be soon relieved by some person or other. — I had not lain here many minutes, when I saw a countryman coming in with a pitch-fork in his hand, which he was on the point of thrusting into the straw that concealed me, and in all probability, would have done my busineſs, had I not uttered a dreadful groan, after having essayed in vain to speak. — This melancholy note alarmed the clown, who started back, and, discovering a body all besmeared with blood, stood trembling, with the pitch-fork extended before him, his hair bristling up, his eyes staring, his nostrils dilated, and his mouth wide open. —At another time I should have been much diverted by this figure, which preserved the same attitude very near ten minutes, during which time I made many unsucceſsful efforts to implore his compassion and assistance; but my tongue failed me, and my language was only a repetition of groans: at length an old man arrived, who, seeing the other in such a posture, cried, „Mercy upon un! the lead's bewitched; — why Dick, beest thou besayd thyself!“ —

Dick, without moving his eyes from the object that terrified him, replied, „O vather! vather! here be either the devil or a dead mon: I doan't know which on'un, but a groans woundily.“ — The father, whose eye sight was none of the best, pulled out his spectacles, and, having applied them to his nose, reconnoitered me over his son's shoulder: But no sooner did he behold me, than he was seized with a fit of shaking, even more violent than Dick's, and with a broken accent addressed me thus: „In the name of the Vather, Zun, and Holy Ghost, I charge you an you been Satan to be gone to the Red Zea; but an you be a moodered mon, speak, that you may have Christom burial.“ — As I was not in a condition to satisfy him in this particular, he repeated his conjuration to no purpose; and they continued a good while in the agonies of fear. — At length the father proposed that the son should draw nearer, and take a more distinct view of the apparition; but Dick was of opinion that his father should advance first, as being an old man past his labour, and, if he received any mischief, the loſs would be the smaller; whereas he himself might escape and be useful in his generation. — This prudential reason had no effect upon the senior, who still kept Dick

between me and him. — In the mean time I endeavoured to raise one hand as a signal of distrefs, but had only strength sufficient to produce a rustling among the straw, which discomposed the young peasant so much, that he sprung out at the door, and overthrew his father in his flight. — The old gentleman would not spend time in getting up, but crawled backwards like a crab, with great speed, till he had got over the threshold, mumbling exorcisms all the way. — I was exceedingly mortified to find myself in danger of perishing through the ignorance and cowardice of these clowns: and felt my spirits decay apace, when an old woman entered the barn, followed by the two fugitives, and with great intrepidity advanced to the place where I lay, saying, if it be the devil I fear'n not, and for a dead mon, a can do us no harm." — When she saw my condition, she cried, „Here be no devil, but in your fool's head. — Here be a poor miserable wretch, bleeding to death, and if a dies, we must be at the charge of burying him; therefore, Dick, go vetch the old wheel-barrow, and puten in, and carry en to Goodman Hodge's back-door, he is more eable than we to lay out money upon poor vagrants." — Her advice was taken, and immediately put

in execution: I was rolled to the other farmer's door, where I was tumbled out like a heap of dung; and would certainly have fallen a prey to the hogs, if my groans had not disturbed the family, and brought some of them out to view my situation. But Hodge resembled the Jew more than the good Samaritan, and ordered me to be carried to the house of the parson, whose busineſs it was to practise as well as to preach charity: Observing, that it was sufficient for him to pay his *quota* towards the maintenance of the poor belonging to his own parish. — When I was set down at the vicar's gate, he fell into a mighty passion, and threatened to excommunicate him who sent, as well as those who brought me, unleſs they would move me immediately to another place. — About this time I fainted with the fatigue I had undergone, and afterwards understood that I was bandied from door to door through a whole village, nobody having humanity enough to administer the least relief to me, until an old woman, who was suspected of witchcraft by the neighbourhood, hearing of my distreſs, received me into her house, and, having dressed my wounds, brought me to myself with cordials of her own preparing. — I was treated with great care and tenderneſs by this grave ma-

tron, who, after I had recovered some strength, desired to know the particulars of my last disaster. This piece of satisfaction I could not refuse to one who had saved my life, therefore related all my adventures without exaggeration or reserve. — She seemed surprised at the vicissitudes I had undergone, and drew a happy presage of my future life from my past sufferings, then launched out into the praise of adversity, with so much ardour and good sense, that I concluded she was a person who had seen better days, and conceived a longing desire to hear her story. — She perceived my drift by some words I dropped, and smiling told me, there was nothing either entertaining or extraordinary in the course of her fortune; but, however, she would communicate to me, in consideration of the confidence I had reposed in her. — „It is of little consequence, (she said) to tell the names of my parents, who are dead many years ago: Let it suffice to assure you, they were wealthy, and had no other child than me; so that I was looked upon as heirefs to a considerable estate, and teazed with addresses on that account. Among the number of my admirers, there was a young gentleman of no fortune, whose sole dependence was on his promotion in the army, in which, at that

time, he bore a lieutenant's commission. — I conceived an affection for this amiable officer, which in a short time encreased to a violent passion, and without entering into minute circumstances, married him privately. — We had not enjoyed one another long in stolen interviews, when he was ordered with his regiment to Flanders; but, before he set out, it was agreed between us, that he should declare our marriage to my father by letter, and implore his pardon for the step we had taken without his approbation. — This discovery was made while I was abroad visiting, and just as I was about to return home, I received a letter from my father, importing, that since I had acted so undutifully and meanly as to marry a beggar, without his privity or consent, to the disgrace of his family, as well as the disappointment of his hopes, he renounced me to the miserable fate I had entailed upon myself, and charged me never to set foot within his doors again. — This rigid sentence was confirmed by my mother, who, in a postscript, gave me to understand, that her sentiments were exactly conformable to those of my father, and that I might save myself the trouble of making any applications, for her resolutions were unalterable. — Thunderstruck with my evil fortune, I called a

coach, and drove to my husband's lodgings, where I found him waiting the event of his letter. —— Though he could easily divine by my looks the issue of his declaration, he read with great steadineſs the epistle I had received; and with a smile full of tenderneſs, which I shall never forget, embraced me, saying, I believe the good lady, your mother, might have spared herself the trouble of the last part of her postscript. — Well, my dear Betty, you must lay aside all thoughts of a coach, till I can procure the command of a regiment. — This unconcerned behaviour, while it enabled me to support my reverse of fortune, at the same time endeared him to me the more, by convincing me of his desinterested views in espousing me. — I was next day boarded, in company with the wife of another officer, who had long been the friend and confidant of my husband, at a village not far from London, where they parted from us in the most melting manner, went to Flanders, and were killed in sight of one another, at the battle of the Wood. — Why should I tire you with a description of our unutterable sorrow at the fatal news of this event, the remembrance of which now fills my aged eyes with tears! — When our grief subsided a little, and reflection came to

our aid, we found ourselves deserted by the whole world, and in danger of perishing by want: Whereupon we made application for the pension, and were put upon the list. Then vowing eternal friendship, sold our jewels and superfluous clothes, retired to this place (which is the county of Sussex) bought this little house, where we lived many years in a solitary manner, indulging our mutual sorrow, till it pleased heaven to call away my companion two years ago, since which time I have lingered out an unhappy being, in hopes of a speedy dissolution, when I promise myself the eternal reward of all my cares. — In the mean time I must inform you of the character I bear among the neighbours: — My conversation being different from that of the inhabitants of the village, my recluse way of life, my skill in curing distempers, which I acquired from books since I settled here, and lastly, my age, have made the common people look upon me as something preternatural; and I am actually at this hour believed to be a witch. The parson of the parish, whose acquaintance I have not been at much pains to cultivate, taking umbrage at my supposed disrespect, has contributed not a little towards the confirmation of this opinion, by dropping certain hints to my prejudice among

the vulgar, who are also very much scandalized at my entertaining this poor tabby cat with the collar about her neck, which was a favourite of my deceased companion."

The whole behaviour of this venerable person was so primitive, innocent, sensible and humane, that I contracted a filial respect for her advice with regard to my future conduct, as soon as I was in a condition to act for myself. — She dissuaded me from a design I had formed of travelling to London, in hopes of retrieving my clothes and pay, by returning to my ship, which by this time, I read in the news-papers, was safely arrived in the river Thames: „Because (said she) you run the hazard of being treated not only as a deserter, in quitting the sloop, but also as a mutineer, in assaulting your commanding officer, to the malice of whose revenge you will moreover be exposed." — She then promised to recommend me as a servant to a single lady of her acquaintance, who lived in the neighbourhood with her nephew, who was a young fox-hunter of great fortune, where I might be very happy, provided I could bear the disposition and manners of my mistrefs, which were somewhat whimsical and particular. — But above all things, she counselled me to conceal my story, the know-

ledge of which would effectually poison my entertainment; for it was a maxim amongst most people of condition, that no gentleman in distreſs ought to be admitted into a family, as a domestic, lest he become proud, lazy, and insolent. — I was fain to embrace this humble proposal, because my affairs were desperate, and in a few days was hired by this lady, to serve in quality of her footman: having been represented by my hosteſs as a young man who was bred up to the sea by his relation against his will, and had suffered shipwreck, which had increased his disgust to that way of life so much, that he rather chose to go to service on shore, than enter himself on board of any other ship. — Before I took possession of my place, she gave me a sketch of my mistreſs's character, that I might know better how to regulate my conduct. — „Your lady (said she) is a maiden of forty years, not so remarkable for her beauty as her learning and taste, which is famous all over the country. — Indeed she is a perfect female *virtuoso*, and so eager after the pursuit of knowledge, that she neglects her person even to a degree of sluttishnes; this negligence, together with her contempt of the male part of the creation, gives her nephew no great concern, as by these means, he will probably

keep her fortune, which is considerable, in the family. He therefore permits her to live in her own way, which is something extraordinary, and gratifies her in all her whimsical desires. Her apartment is at some distance from the other inhabited parts of the house; and consist of a dining-room, bed chamber, and study. She keeps a cook maid, waiting-woman, and footman of her own, and seldom eats or converses with any of her family but her niece, who is a very lovely creature, and humours her aunt often to the prejudice of her own health, by setting up with her whole nights together; for your mistrefs is too much of a philosopher to the swayed by the customs of the world, and never sleeps or eats like other people. — Among other odd notions, she professes the principles of Rosicrucius, and believes the eart, air, and sea, are inhabited by invisible beings, with whom it is possible for the human species to entertain correspondence and intimacy on the easy condition of living chaste. — As she hopes one day to be admitted into an acquaintance of this kind, she no sooner heard of me and my cat, than she paid me a visit, with a view, as she since owned, to be introduced to my familiar, and was greatly mortified to find herself disappointed in her

expectation. Being, by this visionary turn of mind, abstracted as it were from the world, she cannot advert to the common occurrences of life; and therefore is frequently so absent as to commit very strange mistakes and extravagancies, which you will do well to rectify and repair, as your prudence shall suggest."

CHAP. XXXIX.

My Reception by that Lady — I become enamoured of Narcissa — Recount the Particulars of my last Misfortune — Acquire the good Opinion of my Mistreſs — An Account of the young Squire — I am made acquainted with more Particulars of Narcissa's Situation — Conceive a mortal hatred against Sir Timothy — Examine my Lady's Library and Performances — Her extravagant Behaviour.

Fraught with these useful instructions, I repaired to the place of her habitation, and was introduced by the waiting woman to the presence of my lady, who had not before seen me. — She sat in her study, with one foot on the ground, and the other upon a high stool at some distance from her seat: her sandy

locks hung down in a disorder, I cannot call beautiful, from her head, which was deprived of its coif, for the benefit of scratching with one hand, while she held the stump of a pen in the other. Her forehead was high and wrinkled; her eyes were large, grey, and prominent; her nose was long, sharp, and aquiline; her mouth of vast capacity; her visage meagre and freckled, and her chin pecked like a shoe-maker's paring-knife; her upper lip contained a large quantity of plain Spanish, which, by continual falling, had embroidered her neck, that was not naturally very white, and the breast of her gown, that flowed loose about her with a negligence truly poetic, discovering linen that was very fine, and, to all appearance, never washed but in Castalian streams. — Around her lay heaps of books, globes, quadrants, telescopes, and other learned apparatus. Her snuff box stood at her right hand, at her left-hand lay her handkerchief, sufficiently used, and a convenience to spit in, appeared on one side of her chair. — She being in a reverie when we entered, the maid did not think proper to disturb her: so that we waited some minutes unobserved, during which time she bit the quill several times, altered her position, made

many wry faces, and at length, with an air of triumph, repeated aloud:

„Nor dare th' immortal gods my rage oppose.“

Having committed her succefs to paper, she turned towards the door, and, perceiving us, cried, „What's the matter?“ — „Here's the young man (replied my conductrefs) whom Mrs. Sagely recommended as a footman to your ladyship.“ On this information she stared in my face a considerable time, and then asked my name, which I thought proper to conceal under that of John Brown. — After having surveyed me with a curious eye, she broke out into „O! ay, thou wast shipwreck'd, I remember. —— Whether didst thou come on shore on the back of a whale or a dolphin?“ —— To this I answered, I had swam ashore without any assistance. — Then she demanded to know if I had ever been at the Hellespont, and swam from Sestos to Abydos. I replied in the negative. Upon which, she bade the maid order a suit of new livery for me, and instruct me in the articles of my duty: so saying, she spit in her snuff-box, and wiped her nose with her cap, which lay on the table, instead of an handkerchief. We returned to the kitchen, where I was regaled by the maids, who seemed to vie with each other in expressing their regard for

me: and from them I understood that my businefs consisted in cleaning knives and forks, laying the cloth, waiting at table, carrying messages, and attending my lady when she went abroad. There was a good suit of livery in the house, which had belonged to my predecessor deceased, and fitted me exactly; so that there was no occasion for employing a taylor on my account. — I had not long been equipped in this manner, when my lady's bell rung; upon which, I ran up stairs, and found her stalking about the room in her shift and under-petticoat only. I would have immediately retired as became me, but she bid me come in, and air a clean shift for her; which operation I having performed with some backwardnefs, she put it on before me without any ceremony, and I verily believe was ignorant of my sex all that time, as being quite absorbed in contemplation. — About four o'clock in the afternoon, I was ordered to lay the cloth, and place two covers, which I understood were for my mistrefs and her niece, whom I had not as yet seen. Though I was not very dextrous at this work, I performed it pretty well for a beginner: and when dinner was upon the table, saw my mistrefs approach, accompanied hy the young lady, whose name for the present shall be Narcissa. — So much

ſweetneſs appeared in the countenance and carriage of this amiable apparition, that my heart was captivated at first sight, and, while dinner lasted, I gazed upon her without intermission. — Her age seemed to be seventeen, her stature tall, her shape unexceptionable; her hair, that fell down upon her ivory neck in ringlets, black as jet: her arched eye-brows of the same colour; her eyes piercing, yet tender; her lips of the consistence and hue of cherries; her complexion clear, delicate, and healthy; her aspect noble, ingenuous, and humane; and her whole person so ravishingly delightful, that it was impossible for any creature, endued with sensibility, to see without admiring, and admire without loving her to exceſs! I began to curse the servile station that placed me so far beneath the regard of this idol of my adoration! and yet I blessed my fate, that enabled me to enjoy daily the sight of so much perfection! When she spoke, I listened with pleasure; but when she spoke to me, my soul was thrilled with an extasy of tumultuous joy! I was even so happy as to be the subject of their conversation. For Narcissa having observed me, said to her aunt, „I see your new footman is come.“ Then addressing herself to me, asked with ineffable

complacency, if I was the person who had been so cruelly used by robbers? When I satisfied her in this, she expressed a desire of knowing the other particulars of my fortune both before and since my being shipwrecked. Hereupon (as Mrs. Sagely had counselled me) I told her that I had been bound apprentice to the master of a ship, contrary to my inclination, which ship had foundered at sea; — that I and four more, who chanced to be on deck when she went down, made shift to swim to the shore, when my companions, after having overpowered me, stript me to the shirt, and left me, as they imagined, dead of the wounds I received in my own defence. Then I related the circumstances of my being found in a barn, with the inhuman treatment I met with from the country people and parson; the description of which, I perceived, drew tears from the charming creature's eyes? — When I had finished my recital, my mistrefs said, „*Ma foy! le garcon est bien fait!*" To which opinion Narcissa assented, with a compliment to my understanding in the same language, that flattered my vanity extremely.

The conversation, among other subjects, turned upon the young squire, whom my lady enquired after, under the title of the

Savage; and was informed by her niece, that he was still in bed, repairing the fatigue of last night's debauch, and recruiting strength and spirits to undergo a fox-chace to-morrow morning, in company with Sir Timothy Thicket, Squire Bumper, and a great many other gentlemen of the same stamp, whom he had invited on that occasion; so that by day break, the whole house would be in an uproar. — This was a very disagreeable piece of news to the *virtuoso*, who protested she would stuff her ears with cotton when she went to bed, and take a dose of opium to make her sleep the more sound, that she might not be disturbed and distracted by the clamour of the brutes.

When their dinner was over, I and my fellow-servants set down to ours in the kitchen, where I understood that Sir Timothy Thicket was a wealthy knight in the neighbourhood, between whom and Narcissa a match had been projected by her brother, who promised at the same time to espouse Sir Thimothy's sister: by which means, as their fortunes were pretty equal, the young ladies would be provided for, and their brothers be never the poorer: but that the ladies did not concur in the scheme, each of them entertaining a hearty contempt for the

person allotted to her for a husband, by this agreement. — This information begat in me a mortal aversion to Sir Timothy, whom I looked upon as my rival, and cursed in my heart for his presumption. — Next morning by day break, being awakened by the noise of the hunters and hounds, I rose to view the cavalcade, and had a sight of my competitor, whose accomplishments (the estate excluded) did not seem brilliant enough to give me much uneasineſs with respect to Narcissa, who, I flattered myself, was not to be won by such qualifications as he was master of, either as to person or mind. — My mistreſs, notwithstanding her precaution, was so much disturbed by her nephew's company, that she did not rise till five o'clock in the afternoon; so that I had an opportunity of examining her study at leisure, to which examination I was strongly prompted by my curiosity. — Here I found a thousand scraps of her own poetry, consisting of three, four, ten, twelve, and twenty lines, on an infinity of subjects, which, as whim inspired, she had begun, without constancy or capacity to bring to any degree of composition. But what was very extraordinary in a female poet, there was not the least mention made of love in any of her performances. I counted

fragments of five tragedies, the titles of which were, „The Stern Philosopher. — The double Murder. — The Sacrilegious Traitor. — The Fall of Lucifer; — And the Last Day.“ From whence I gathered that her disposition was gloomy, and her imagination delighted with objects of horror, — Her library was composed of the best English historians, poets, and philosophers; of all the French critics and poets, and of a few books in Italian, chiefly poetry, at the head of which were Tasso and Ariosto, pretty much used. Besides these, translations of the classics into French, but not one book in Greek or Latin; a circumstance that discovered her ignorance in these languages. — After having taken a full view of this collection, I retired, and at the usual time was preparing to lay the cloth, when I was told by the maid that her mistreſs was still in bed, and had been so affected by the notes of the hounds in the morning, that she actually believed herself a hare beset by the hunters; and begged a few greens to munch for breakfast. When I expressed my surprise at this unaccountable imagination, she gave me to understand, that her lady was very much subject to whims of this nature; sometimes fancying herself an animal, sometimes a

piece of furniture, during which conceited transformations, it was very dangerous to come near her, especially when she represented a beast; for that lately, in the character of a cat, she had flown at her and scratched her face in a terrible manner; —— that some months ago she prophesied the general conflagration was at hand, and nothing would be able to quench it but her water, which therefore she kept so long that her life was in danger; and she must needs have died of the retention, had they not found an expedient to make her evacuate, by kindling a bonfire under her chamber-window, and persuading her that the house was in flames; upon which, with great deliberation, she bade them bring all the tubs and vessels they could find, to be filled, for the preservation of the house, into one of which she immediately discharged the cause of her distemper. —— I was also informed, that nothing contributed so much to the recovery of her reason, as music, which was always administered on those occasions by Narcissa, who played perfectly well on the harpsichord, and to whom she (the maid) was just then going to intimate her aunt's disorder. — She was no sooner gone, than I was summoned by the bell to my lady's chamber,

where I found her sitting squat on her arms, on the floor, in the manner of puſs when she listens to the outcries of her pursuers.— When I appeared, she started up with an alarmed look, and sprung to the other side of the room to avoid me, whom without doubt, she mistook for a beagle thristing after her life. — Perceiving her extreme confusion, I retired, and on the stair-case met the adorable Narcissa coming up, to whom I imparted the situation of my mistreſs; she said not a word, but smiling with unspeakable grace, went into her aunt's apartment, and in a little time my ears were ravished with the effects of her skill. —— She accompanied the instrument with a voice so sweet and melodious, that I did not wonder at the surprising change it produced on the spirits of my mistreſs, which were soon composed to peace and sober reflection.

About seven o'clock, the hunters arrived, with the skins of two foxes and one badger carried before them as trophies of their succeſs. And when they were about to sit down at dinner (or supper) Sir Timothy Thicket desired that Narcissa would honour the table with her presence; but this request, notwithstanding her brother's threats and intreaties, she refused, on pretence of at-

tending her aunt, who was indisposed; so I enjoyed the satisfaction of seeing my rival mortified: But this disappointment made no great impression on him, who consoled himself with the bottle, of which the whole company became so enamoured, that, after a most horrid uproar of laughing, singing, swearing, dancing, and fighting, they were all carried to bed in a state of utter oblivion. — My duty being altogether detached from the 'Squire and his family, I led a pretty easy and comfortable life, drinking daily intoxicating draughts of love from the charms of Narcissa, which brightened on my contemplation every day more and more. — Inglorious as my present station was, I became blind to my own unworthineſs, and even conceived hopes of one day enjoying this amiable creature, whose affability greatly encouraged these presumptuous thoughts.

CHAP. XXXX.

My Mistreſs is surprised at my Learning — Communicates her Performances to me — I impart some of mine to her — Am mortified at her faint Praise — Narcissa approves of my Conduct — I gain an involun-

tary Conquest over the Cook-Wench and Dairy-Maid — Their mutual Resentment and Insinuations — The Jealously of the Lovers.

During this season of love and tranquillity, my muse, which had lain dormant so long, awoke, and produced several small performances on the subject of my flame: But as it concerned me nearly to remain undiscovered in my real character and sentiments, I was under a necessity of mortifying my desire of praise, by confining my works to my own perusal and applause. — In the mean time I strove to insinuate myself into the good opinion of both ladies; and succeeded so well, by my diligence and dutiful behaviour, that in a little time, I was at least a favourite servant, and frequently enjoyed the opportunity of hearing my name mentioned in French and Italian, with some degree of warmth and surprise, by the dear object of all my wishes, as a person who had so much of the gentleman in my appearance and discourse, that she could not for her soul, treat me like common lacquey. — My prudence and modesty were not long proof against these bewitching compliments. One day, while I waited at dinner, the conversa-

tion turned upon a knotty passage of Tasso's Gierusalem, which, it seems had puzzled them both: After a great many unsatisfactory conjectures, my mistrefs taking the book out of her pocket, turned up to the place in question, and read the sentence over and over without succefs; at length, despairing of finding the author's meaning, she turned to me, saying „Come hither, Bruno, let us see what fortune will do for us; I will interpret to thee what goes before and what follows this obscure paragraph, the particular words of which I will also explain, that thou mayest, by comparing one with another, guefs the sense of that which perplexes us." — I was too vain to let slip this opportunity of displaying my talents, therefore, without hesitation, read and explained the whole of that which had disconcerted them, to the utter astonishment of both. — Narcissa's face and lovely neck were overspread with blushes, from which I drew a favourable omen; while her aunt, after having stared at me a good while, with a look of amazement, exclaimed, „In the name of heaven! Who art thou?" — I told her I had picked up a smattering of Italian, during a voyage up the straits. — At this explanation she shook her head, and observed, that no smatterer could read as I

had done. — She then desired to know if I understood French? — To which question I answered in the affirmative: She asked, if I was acquainted with the Latin and Greek? I replied, „A litle." — „Oho! (continued she) and with philosophy and mathematics, I suppose?" — I owned I knew something of each. Then she repeated her stare and interrogation. — I began to repent of my vanity, and in order to repair the fault I had committed, said it was not to be wondered at if I had a tolerable education, for learning was so cheap in my country, that every peasant was a scholar; but I hoped her ladyship would think my understanding no exception to my character —— She was pleased to answer, „No, no; God forbid." But during the rest of the time they sat at table, they behaved with remarkable reserve.

This alteration gave me great uneasineſs: and I passed the night without sleep, in melancholy reflections on the vanity of young men, which prompts them to commit so many foolish actions, contrary to their own sober judgment. — Next day, however, instead of profiting by this self condemnation, I yielded still more to the dictates of the principle I had endeavoured to chastise, and if fortune had not befriended me more than

prudence could expect, I should have been treated with the contempt it deserved: —— After breakfast, my lady, who was a true author, bade me follow her into the study, where she expressed herself thus: „Since you are so learned, you cannot be void of taste; therefore I am to desire your opinion of a small performance in poetry, which I lately composed. — You must know I have planned a tragedy, the subject of which shall be the murder of a prince before the altar, where he is busy at his devotions. — After the deed is perpetrated, the regicide will harangue the people with the bloody dagger in his hand; and I have already composed a speech, which I think will suit the character extremely — Here it is.“ —— Then taking up a scrap of paper, she read with violent emphasis and gesture, as follows:

„Thus have I sent the simple king to hell,
Without a coffin, shroud, or passing bell:
To me, what are divine and human laws?
I court no sanction but my own applause!
Rapes, robb'ries, treasons, yield my soul delight;
And human carnage gratifies my sight:
I drag the parent by the hoary hair
And toſs the sprawling infant on my spear,
While the fond mother's cries regale mine ear.

I fight, I vanquish, murder friends and foes;
Nor dare th' immortal Gods my rage oppose."

Though I did great violence to my understanding in praising this unnatural rhapsody, I neverthelefs extolled it as a production that of itself deserved immortal fame: and besought her ladyship to blefs the world with the fruits of those uncommon talents heaven had bestowed upon her — She smiled with a look of self complacency, and encouraged by the incense I had offered, communicated all her poetical works, which I applauded one by one, with as little candour as I had shewn at first. — Satiated with my flattery, which I hope, my situation justified, she could not in conscience refuse me an opportunity of shining in my turn: and therefore, after a compliment to my nice discernment and taste, observed, that doubtlefs I must have produced something in that way myself, which she desired to see. — This was a temptation I could by no means resist. — I owned that while I was at college, I wrote some small detached pieces, at the desire of a friend who was in love; and at her request repeated the following verses, which indeed my love for Narcissa had inspired.

On Celia playing on the harpsichord, and singing.

I.

When Sappho struck the quiv'ring wire,
The throbbing breast was all on fire:
And when she rais'd the vocal lay,
The captive soul was charm'd away!

II.

But had the nymph possest, with these,
Thy softer, chaster pow'r to please,
Thy beauteous air of sprightly youth,
Thy native smiles of artlefs truth,

III.

The worm of grief had never prey'd
On the forsaken, love-sick maid:
Nor had she mourn'd an haplefs flame,
Nor dash'd on rocks her tender frame.

My mistrefs paid me a cold compliment on my versification, which, she said, was elegant enough, but the subject beneath the pen of a true poet. I was extremely nettled at her indifference, and looked at Narcissa, who by this time had joined us, for her approbation, but she declined giving her opinion, protesting she was no judge of these matters: So that I was forced to retire, very

much baulked in my expectation, which was generally a little too sanguine. In the afternoon, however, the waiting-maid assured me, that Narcissa had expressed her approbation of my performance with great warmth, and desired her to procure a copy of it, as for herself, that she (Narcissa) might have an opportunity to peruse it at pleasure.—I was elated to an extravagant pitch at this intelligence, and immediately transcribed a fair copy of my Ode, which was carried to the dear charmer, together with another on the same subject, as follows:

I.

Thy fatal shafts unerring move,
I bow before thine altar, Love!
I feel thy soft, resistlefs flame,
Glide swift through all my vital frame!

II.

For while I gaze, my bosom glows,
My blood in tides impetuous flows;
Hope, fear, and joy alternate roll,
And floods of transport whelm my soul!

III.

My fault'ring tongue attempts in vain,
In soothing murmurs to complain;

My tongue some secret magic ties,
My murmurs sink in broken sighs!

IV.

Condemn'd to nurse eternal care,
And ever drop the silent tear,
Unheard I mourn, unknown I sigh,
Unfriended live, unpity'd die!

Whether or not Narcissa discovered my passion, I could not learn from her behaviour, which though always benevolent to me, was henceforth more reserved and lefs chearful. — While my thoughts aspired to a sphere so far above me, I had unwittingly made a conquest of the cook-wench and dairy-maid, who became so jealous of each other, that if their sentiments had been refined by education, it is probable one or other of them would have had recourse to poison or steel, to be avenged of her rival; but as their minds were happily adapted to their humble station, their mutual enmity was confined to scolding and fisty-cuffs, in which exercises they were both well skilled. My good fortune did not long remain a secret; for it was disclosed by the frequent broils of these heroines, who kept no decorum in their encounters. The coachman and gardener, who paid their devoirs to my admirers, each to his respective choice,

alarmed at my succefs, laid their heads together, in order to concert a plan of revenge; and the former having been educated at the academy of Tottenham-court, undertook to challenge me to single combat. He accordingly, with many opprobrious invectives, bade me defiance, and offered to box me for twenty guineas. — I told him, that although I believed myself a match for him, even at that work, I would not descend so far below the dignity of a gentleman as to fight like a porter; but if he had any thing to say to me, I was his man at blunderbufs, musket, pistol, sword, hatchet, spit, cleaver, fork, or needle; nay, I swore, that should he give his tongue any more saucy liberties at my expence, I would crop bis ears without any ceremony. — This rhodomontade, delivered with a stern countenance, and resolute tone, had the desired effect upon my antagonist, who with some confusion, sneaked off, and gave his friend an account of his reception. The story taking air among the servants, procured for me the title of Gentleman John, with which I was sometimes honoured, even by my mistrefs and Narcissa, who had been informed of the whole affair by the chambermaid. — In the mean time, the rival queens expressed their passion by all the ways in their

power: The cook entertained me with choice bits, the dairy-maid with stroakings; the first would often encourage me to discover myself, by complimenting me upon my courage and learning, and observing, that if she had a husband like me to maintain order and keep accompts, she could make a great deal of money by setting up an eatinghouse in London, for gentlemen's servants on board wages. — The other courted my affection, by shewing her own importance, and telling me that many a substantial farmer in the neighbourhood would be glad to marry her; but she was resolved to please her eye, if she should plague her heart. — Then she would launch out in praise of my proper person, and say, she was sure I would make a good husband, for I was very good natured. — I began to be uneasy at the importunities of those inamoratas, whom, at another time, perhaps, I might have pleased without the disagreeable sauce of matrimony; but at present, my soul was engrossed by Narcissa, and I could not bear the thoughts of doing any thing derogatory of the passion I entertained for her.

CHAP. XXXXI.

Narcissa being in Danger from the Brutality of Sir Timothy, is rescued by me, who revenge myself on my Rival — I declare my Passion, and retreat to the Sea side — Am surrounded by Smuggler's, and carried to Bulogne — Find my Uncle, Lieutenant Bowling, in great Distreſs, and relieve him — Our Conversation.

At certain intervals my ambition would revive: I would despise myself for my tame resignation to my sordid fate, and revolve an hundred schemes for assuming the character of a gentleman, to which I thought myself intitled by my birth and education. — In these fruitleſs suggestions time stole away unperceived, and I had already remained eight months in the station of a footman, when an accident happened that put an end to my servitude, and for the present banished all hopes of succeeding in my love.

Narcissa went one day to visit Miſs Thicket, who, lived with her brother, within leſs than a mile of our house, and was persuaded to walk home in the cool of the evening, accompanied by Sir Timothy, who, having a good deal of the brute in him, was instigated to use some unbecoming familiari-

ties with her, encouraged by the solitarinefs of a field through which they passed. — The lovely creature was incensed at this rude behaviour, for which she reproached him in such a manner that he lost all regard to decency, and actually offered violence to this pattern of innocence and beauty. — But heaven would not suffer so much goodnefs to be violated; and sent me, who, passing by accident near the place, was alarmed with her cries, to her succour. — What were the emotions of my soul, when I beheld Narcissa, almost sinking beneath the brutal force of this satyr! I flew like lightening to her rescue, and he, perceiving me, quitted his prey, and drew his hanger to chastise my presumption. — My indignation was too high to admit one thought of fear, so that, rushing upon him, I struck his weapon out of his hand, and used my cudgel so succefsfully that he fell to the ground, and lay, to all appearance, without sense. —— Then I turned to Narcissa, who had swooned, and, sitting down by her, gently raised her head, and supported it on my bosom, while with my hand around her waist, I kept her in that position. My soul was thrilled with tumultuous joy, at feeling the object of my dearest wishes within my arms; and, while she lay

insensible, I could not refrain from applying my cheek to her's and ravishing a kifs: In a little time, the blood began to revisit her face, she opened her enchanting eyes, and, having recollected her late situation, said, with a look full of tender acknowledgment. „Dear John, I am eternally obliged to you!“ So saying, she made an effort to rise, in which I assisted her, and she proceeded to the house, leaning upon me all the way. I was a thousand times tempted by this opportunity to declare my passion, but the dread of disobliging her restrained my tongue. We had not moved an hundred paces from the scene of her distrefs, when I perceived Sir Timothy rise and walk homeward; a circumstance which, though it gave me some satisfaction, inasmuch as I thereby knew I had not killed him, filled me with just apprehension of his resentment, which I found myself in no condition to withstand: especially when I considered his intimacy with our 'squire, to whom I knew he could justify himself for what he had done, by imputing it to his love, and desiring his brother Bruin to take the same liberty with his sister, without fear of offence. — When we arrived at the house, Narcissa assured me she would exert all her influence in protecting me from the

revenge of Thicket, and likewise engage her aunt in my favour. At the same time, pulling out her purse, offered it, as a small consideration for the service I had done her. But I stood too much on the punctilios of love to incur the least suspicion of being mercenary, and refused the present, by saying, I had merited nothing by barely doing my duty. — She seemed astonished at my disinterestedneſs, and blushed; I felt the same suffusion, and, with a downcast eye, and broken accent, told her, I had one request to make, which if her generosity would grant, I should think myself fully recompenced for an age of misery. —— She changed colour at this preamble, and, with great confusion, replied, she hoped my good sense would hinder me from asking any thing she was bound in honour to refuse, and therefore bade me signify my desire. — Upon which I kneeled, and begged to kiſs her hand. She immediately, with an averted look, stretched it out; and I imprinted on it an ardent kiſs, and, bathing it with my tears, cried, „Dear madam, I am an unfortunate gentleman, and love you to distraction, but would have died a thousand deaths rather than make this declaration under such a servile appearance, were I not determined to yield to the rigour

of my fate, to fly from your bewitching presence, and bury my presumptuous passion in eternal silence." With these words I rose and went away, before she could recover her spirits so far as to make any reply. — My first care was to go and consult Mrs. Sagely, with whom I had maintained a friendly correspondence ever since I left her house. When she understood my situation, the good woman with real concern, condoled me on my unhappy fate, and approved of my resolution to leave the country, as being perfectly well acquainted with the barbarous disposition of my rival, „who, by this time, (said she) has no doubt meditated a scheme of revenge. — Indeed, I cannot see how you will be able to elude his vengeance; being himself in the commission, he will immediately grant warrants for apprehending you; and as almost all the people in this country are dependent on him and his friend, it will be impossible for you to find shelter among them: if you should be apprehended, he will commit you to gaol, where you may possibly languish in great misery till the next assizes, and then be transported for assaulting a magistrate." — While she thus warned me of my danger, we heard a knocking at the door, which threw us both into great consternation, as,

in all probability, it was occasioned by my pursuers; whereupon this generous old lady, putting two guineas into my hand, with tears in her eyes, bade me, for God's sake, get out at the back door, and consult my safety as Providence should direct me. — There was no time for deliberation. I followed her advice, and escaped, by the benefit of a dark night, to the sea side, where, while I ruminated on my next excursion, I was all of a sudden surrounded by armed men, who, having bound my hands and feet, bade me make no noise, on pain of being shot, and carried me on board of a vessel, which I soon perceived to be a smuggling cutter. — This discovery gave me some satisfaction at first, because I concluded myself safe from the resentment of Sir Timothy: But when I found myself in the hands of ruffians, who threatened to execute me for a spy, I would have thought myself happily quit for a year's imprisonment, or even transportation. — It was in vain for me to protest my innocence: I could not persuade them that I had taken a solitary walk to their haunt, at such an hour, merely for my own amusement, and I did not think it my interest to disclose the true cause of my retreat, because I was afraid they would have made their peace

with justice, by surrendering me to the penalty of the law. — What confirmed their suspicion, was, the appearance of a custom-house yacht, which gave them chace, and had well nigh made a prize of their vessel; when they were delivered from their fears by a thick fog, which effectually screened them, and favoured their arrival at Bullogne. — But before they had got out of sight of their pursuer, they held a council of war about me, and some of the most ferocious among them, would have thrown me overboard, as a traitor who had betrayed them to their enemies: but others, more considerate, alledged, that if they put me to death, and should afterwards be taken, they could expect no mercy from the legislature, which would never pardon outlawry aggravated by murder. — It was therefore determined by a plurality of votes, that I should be set on shore in France, and left to find my passage back to England as I should think proper, this being punishment sufficient for the bare suspicion of a crime in itself not capital. — Although this favourable determination gave me great pleasure, the apprehension of being robbed would not suffer me to be perfectly at ease: To prevent this calamity, as soon as I was untied, in consequence of the foresaid decision, I tore

a small hole in one of my stockings, into which I dropped six guineas, reserving half a piece and some silver in my pocket, that, finding something, they might not be tempted to make any further enquiry. This was a very necessary precaution; for, when we came within sight of the French shore, one of the smugglers told me, I must pay for my passage. — To this declaration I replied, that my passage was none of my own seeking; therefore they could not expect a reward from me for transporting me into a strange country by force. „Damme! (said the outlaw) none of your palaver; but let me see what money you have got.“ — So saying, he thrust his hand into my pocket without any ceremony, and emptied it of the contents: Then casting an eye at my hat and wig, which captivated his fancy, he took them off, and, clapping his own on my head, declared that a fair exchange was no robbery.— I was fain to put up with the bargain, which was by no means favorrable to me; and a little while after we went all on shore together.

I resolved to take my leave of these desperadoes, without much ceremony, when one of them cautioned me against appearing to their prejudice if ever I returned into England, unlefs I had a mind to be murdered;

for which service, he assured me, the gang never wanted agents —— I promised to observe his advice, and departed for the Upper Town, where I enquired for a cabaret or public house, into which I went, with an intention of taking some refreshment. — In the kitchen, five Dutch sailors sat at breakfast, with a large loaf, a firkin of butter, and a cag of brandy, the bung of which they often applied to their mouths with great perseverance and satisfaction. — At some distance from them I perceived another person in the same garb, sitting in a pensive solitary manner, entertaining himself with a whiff of tobacco, from the stump of a pipe as black as jet. — The appearance of distrefs never failed to attract my regard and compassion: I approached this forlorn tar with a view to offer him my assistance, and, notwithstanding the alteration of drefs, and disguise of a long beard, I discovered in him my long-lost and lamented uncle and benefactor, Lieutenant Bowling! Good heaven! what were the agitations of my soul, between the joy of finding again such a valuable friend, and the sorrow of seeing him in such a low condition! The tears gushed down my cheeks; I stood motionlefs and silent for some time! at length, recovering

the use of speech, I exclaimed, „Gracious God! Mr. Bowling!“ —— My uncle no sooner heard his name mentioned, than he started up, crying with some surprise, „Halloo!“ and, after having looked at me stedfastly, without being able to recollect me, said, „Did you call me, brother?“ I told him I had something extraordinary to communicate, and desired him to give me the hearing for a few minutes in another room; but he would by no means consent to this proposal, saying, „Avast there, friend: none of your tricks upon travellers: —— if you have any thing to say to me, do it above board: — you need not be afraid of being overheard; — here are none who understand our lingo. — Though I was loth to discover myself before company, I could no longer refrain from telling him, I was his own nephew, Roderic Random. On this information, he considered me with great earnestnefs and astonishment, and recalling my features, which, though enlarged, were not entirely altered since he had seen me, came up and shook me by the hand very cordially, protesting he was glad to see me well. After some pause, he went on thus: „And yet, my lad, I am sorry to see you under such colours; the more so, as it is

not in my power, at present, to change them for the better, times being very hard with me." With these words, I could perceive a tear trickle down his furrowed cheeks, which affected me so much, that I wept bitterly. —— Imagining my sorrow was the effect of my own misfortunes, he comforted me, with observing, that life was a voyage in which we must expect to meet with all weathers, sometimes it was calm, sometimes rough; that a fair gale often succeeded a storm; that the wind did not always sit one way, and that despair signified nothing; but resolution and skill were better than a stout vessel: for why? because they require no carpenter, and grow stronger the more labour they undergo. I dried up my tears, which I assured him were not shed for my own distrefs, but for his, and begged leave to accompany him into another room, where we could converse more at our ease. — There I recounted to him the ungenerous usage I had met with from Potion; at which relation he started up, stalked across the room three or four times, in a great hurry, and grasping his cudgel, cried, „I would I were along-side of him — that's all, I would I were along side of him!" — I then gave him a detail of all my adventures and sufferings,

which affected him more than I could have imagined; and concluded with telling him that Captain Oakum was still alive, and that he might return to England, when he would to solicit his affairs, without danger or molestation. — He was wonderfully pleased with this piece of information, of which however he said, he could not at present avail himself, for want of money to pay for his passage to London. This objection I soon removed, by putting five guineas into his hand, and telling him I thought myself extremely happy in having an opportunity of manifesting my gratitude to him in his necessity. — But it was with the utmost difficulty I could prevail upon him to accept of two, which he affirmed were more than sufficient to defray the necessary expence. — After this friendly contest was over, he proposed we should have a meſs of something: „For (said he) it has been banyan day with me a great while. — You must know I was shipwreck'd five days ago, near a place called Lisieux, in company with those Dutchmen who are now drinking below; and having but little money when I came ashore, it was soon spent, because I let them have share and share while it lasted. — Howsoever, I should have remembered the old saying, *Every hog his*

own apple: For when they found my hold unstowed, they went all hands to shooling and begging, and because I would not take a spell at the same duty, refused to give me the least assistance: so that I have not broke bread these two days." I was shocked at the extremity of his distrefs, and ordered some bread, cheese, and wine, to be brought immediately, to allay his hunger, until a fricassee of chickens could be prepared. When he had recruited his spirits with this homely fare, I desired to know the particulars of his peregrinations since the accident at Cape Tiberon; which were briefly these: the money he had about him being all spent at Port Louis, the civility and hospitality of the French cooled to such a degree, that he was obliged to list on board of one of their king's ships as a common foremast man, to prevent himself from starving on shore. In this situation he continued two years, during which time he had acquired some knowledge of their language, and the reputation of a good seaman. The ship he belonged to was ordered home to France, where she was laid up as unfit for service, and he was received on board of one of Monsieur D'Antin's squadron, in quality of quarter-master; which office he performed in a voyage to the West Indies, where they en-

gaged with our ship, as before related; but his conscience upbraiding him for serving the enemies of his country, he quitted the ship at the same place where he first listed, and got to Curasoa in a Dutch vessel: there he bargained with a skipper, bound to Europe, to work for his passage to Holland, from whence he was in hopes of hearing from his friends in England; but was cast away, (as he mentioned before,) on the French coast, and must have been reduced to the necessity of travelling on foot to Holland, and begging for his subsistence on the road, or of entering on board of another French man of war, at the hazard of being treated as a deserter, if Providence had not sent me to his succour. — „ And now, my lad, (continued he,) I think I shall steer my course directly to London, where I do not doubt of being replaced, and of having the R taken off me by the Lords of the Admirality, to whom I intend to write a petition, setting forth my case: If I succeed, I shall have wherewithal to give you some assistance, because when I left the ship, I had two year's pay due to me, therefore I desire to know whither you are bound; and besides, perhaps, I may have interest enough to procure a warrant appointing you surgeon's mate of the ship to which I shall belong. —

For the beadle of the admirality is my good friend; and he and one of the under-clerks are sworn brothers; and that under clerk has a good deal to say with one of the upper clerks, who is very well known to the under-secretary, who, upon his recommendation, I hope, will recommend my affair to the first secretary; and he again, will speak to one of the lords in my behalf: So that you see I do not want friends to assist me on occasion. —— As for the fellow, Crampley, thof' I know him not, I am sure he is neither seaman nor officer, by what you have told me, or else he could never be so much mistaken in his reckoning, as to run the ship on shore on the coast of Sussex, before he believed himself in soundings; neither, when that accident happened, would he have left the ship until she had been stove to pieces, especially when the tide was making; wherefore, by this time, I do suppose he has been tried by a court martial, and executed for his cowardice and misconduct." —— I could not help smiling at the description of my uncle's ladder, by which he proposed to climb to the attention of the board of admiralty; and though I knew the world too well to confide in such dependance myself, I would not discourage him with doubts; but asked

if he had no friend in London who would advance a small sum of money to enable him to appear as he ought, and make a small present to the under secretary, who might possibly dispatch his busineſs the sooner on that account. — He scratched his head, and, after some recollection, replied, „Why, yes, I believe Daniel Whipcord, the ship-chandler in Wapping, would not refuse me such a small matter. — I know I can have what credit I want, for lodging, liquor, and clothes; but as to money, I won't be positive. — Had honest Block been living, I should not have been at a loſs." I was heartily sorry to find a worthy man so destitute of friends, when he had such need of them; and looked upon my own situation as leſs miserable than his, because I was better acquainted with the selfishneſs and roguery of mankind; consequently leſs liable to disappointment and imposition.

CHAP. XXXXII.

He takes his Passage in a Cutter for Deal — We are accosted by a Priest, who proves to be a Scotchman — His profession of Friendship — He is affronted by the Lieutenant, who afterwards appeases him by

Submission — My Uncle embarks — I am introduced by the Priest to a Capuchin, in whose Company I set out for Paris — The Character of my Fellow-Traveller — An Adventure on the Road — I am shocked at his Behaviour.

When our repast was ended, we walked down to the harbour, where we found a cutter that was to sail for Deal in the evening, and Mr. Bowling agreed for his passage: In the mean time, we sauntered about the town to satisfy our curiosity, our conversation turning on the subject of my designs, which were not as yet fixed: Neither can it be supposed that my mind was at ease, when I found myself reduced almost to extreme poverty, in the midst of foreigners, among whom I had not one acquaintance to advise or befriend me. My uncle was sensible of my forlorn condition, and pressed me to accompany him to England, where he did not doubt of finding some sort of provision for me: But, besides the other reasons I had for avoiding that kingdom, I looked upon it at this time as the worst country in the universe for a poor honest man to live in; and therefore determined to remain in France at all events. I was confirmed in this resolution by a

reverend priest, who, passing by at this time, and overhearing us speak English, accosted us in the same language, telling us he was our countryman, and wishing it might be in his power to do us any service. We thanked this grave person for his courteous offer, and invited him to drink a glaſs with us, which he did not think proper to refuse, and we went all together into a tavern of his recommending. After having drank to our healths in a bumper of good Burgundy, he began to enquire into our situation, particularly the place of our nativity, which we no sooner named, than he started up, and wringing our hands with great fervour, shed a flood of tears, crying, „I come from the same part of the country! Perhaps you are my own relations." I was on my guard against his caresses, which I suspected very much, when I remembered the adventure of the money-dropper; but, without any appearance of diffidence, observed, that as he was born in that part of the country, he must certainly know our families, which (howsoever mean our present appearance might be) were none of the most obscure or inconsiderable. — Then I discovered our names, to which I found he was no stranger; he had known my grandfather personally; and, notwithstand-

ing an absence of fifty years from Scotland, recounted so many particulars of the families in the neighbourhood, that my scruples were entirely removed, and I thought myself happy in his acquaintance —— In the course of our conversation, I disclosed my condition without reserve, and displayed my talents to such advantage, that the old father looked upon me with admiration, and assured me, that if I staid in France, and listened to reason, I could not fail of making my fortune, to which he would contribute all in his power.

My uncle began to be jealous of the priest's insinuation, and very abruptly declared, that if ever I should renounce my religion, he would break off connection and correspondence with me; for it was his opinion, that no honest man would swerve from the principles in which he was bred, whether Turk, Protestant, or Roman. —— The father, affronted at this declaration, with great vehemence, began a long discourse, setting forth the danger of obstinacy, and shutting one's eyes against the light. He said, that ignorance would be no plea towards justification, when we had opportunities of being better informed; and that if the minds of people had not been open to

conviction, the Christian religion could no' have been propagated in the world; and w should now be in a state of Pagan darknefs and barbarity. He endeavoured to prove, by some texts of scripture, and many quotations from the fathers, that the Pope was the successor of St. Peter, and vicar of Jesus Christ; that the church of Rome was the true holy, catholic church; and that the Protestant faith was an impious heresy, and damnable schism, by which many millions of souls would suffer everlasting perdition. —— When he had finished his sermon, which I thought he pronounced with more zeal than discretior he addressed himself to my uncle, an desired to know his objections to what had been said. The lieutenant, whose attention had been wholly engrossed by his own affairs, took the pipe out of his mouth, and replied, „As for me, friend, d'ye see, I have no objection to what you say; it may be either true or false for what I know: I meddle with nobody's affairs but my own; the gunner to his linstock, and the steersman to the helm, as the saying is. — I trust to no creed but the compafs, and do unto every man as I would be done by; so that I defy the pope the devil, and the pretender; and hope to be saved as well as another." — This as-

sociation of persons gave great offence to the friar, who protested in a mighty passion, that if Mr. Bowling had not been his countryman, he would have caused him to be imprisoned for his insolence. — I ventured to disapprove of my uncle's rashneſs, and appeased the old gentleman, by assuring him, there was no offence intended my kinsman, who, by this time, sensible of his error, shook the injured party by the hand, and asked pardon for the freedom he had taken. Matters being amicably compromised, he invited us to come and see him in the afternoon, at the convent to which he belonged, and took his leave for the present; when my uncle recommended it strongly to me to persevere in the religion of my forefathers, whatever advantages I might propose to myself by a change, which could not fail of disgracing myself, and dishonouring my family. — I assured him no consideration should induce me to forfeit his friendship and good opinion on that score; at which assurance he discovered great satisfaction, and put me in mind of dinner, which we immediately bespoke, and when it was ready, ate together.

I imagined my acquaintance with the Scottish priest, if properly managed, might turn out to my advantage, and therefore

resolved to cultivate it as much as I could. With this view, we visited him at his convent according to his invitation, where he treated us with wine and sweetmeats, and shewed us every thing that was remarkable in the monastery. Having been thus entertained, we took our leave, though not before I had promised to see him next day; and the time fixed for my uncle's embarking being come, I accompanied him to the harbour, and saw him on board. —— We parted not without tears, after we had embraced and wished one another all manner of prosperity; and he entreated me to write to him often, directing to Lieutenant Bowling, at the sign of the Union Flag, near the Hermitage, London.

I returned to the house in which we had met, where I passed the night in a very solitary manner, reflecting on the severity of my fate, and endeavouring to project some likely scheme of life for the future; but my invention failed me; I saw nothing but insurmountable difficulties in my way, and was ready to despair at the miserable prospect! That I might not, however, neglect any probable means, I got up in the morning, and went directly to the father, whose advice and assistance I implored. — He received me

very kindly, and gave me to understand, that there was one way of life in which a person of my talents could not fail of making a great figure. — I guessed his meaning, and told him once for all, I was fully determined against any alteration in point of religion; therefore, if his proposal regarded the church, he might save himself the trouble of explaining it. He shook his head, and sighed, saying, „Ah! *son, son; what a* glorious prospect is here spoiled by your stubborn prejudice! Suffer yourself to be persuaded by *reason,* and *consult your temporal* welfare, as well as the concerns of your eternal soul. — I can, by my interest, procure youradm ission as a noviciate into this convent, where I will superintend and direct you with a truly paternal affection." — Then he launched out into the praises of a monastic life, which no noise disturbs, no cares molest, and no danger invades — where the heart is weaned from carnal attachments, the grosser appetites subdued and chastised, and the soul wafted to divine regions of philosophy and truth, on the wings of studious contemplation. — But his eloquence was lost upon me, whom two considerations enabled to withstand his temptations; namely, my promise to my uncle, and my aversion to an ec-

clesiastical life; for as to the difference of religion, I looked upon it as a thing of too small moment to come in competition with a man's fortune. — Finding me immovable on this head, he told me, he was more sorry than offended at my non-compliance, and still ready to employ his good offices in my behalf —„ The same erroneous maxims (said he) that obstruct your promotion in the church, will infallibly prevent your advancement in the army; but if you can brook the condition of a servant, I am acquainted with some people of rank at Versailles, to whom I can give you letters of rerommendation, that you may be entertained by some one of them, in quality of *maitre-de-hotel*; and I do not doubt that your qualifications will soon entitle you to better provision." — I embraced his offer with great eagernefs; and he appointed me to come back in the afternoon, when he would not only give me letters, but likewise introduce me to a capuchin of his acquaintance, who intended to set out for Paris next morning, in whose company I might travel, without being at the expence of one livre during the whole journey. This piece of good news gave me infinite pleasure; I acknowledged my obligation to the benevolent father in the most grateful expres-

sions; and he performed his promise to a tittle, in delivering the letters, and making me acquainted with the capuchin, with whom I departed next morning by break of day.

It was not long before I discovered my fellow-traveller to be a merry facetious fellow; who, notwithstanding his profession and appearance of mortification, loved good eating and drinking better than his rosary, and paid more adoration to a pretty girl than to the Virgin Mary or St. Genevieve. He was a thick brawny young man, with red eye-brows, a hook-nose, a face covered with freckles; and his name was Frère Balthazar. His order did not permit him to wear linen, so that having little occasion to undrefs himself, he was none of the cleanliest animals in the world; and his constitution was naturally so strongly scented, that I always thought it convenient to keep to the windward of him in our march. As he was perfectly well known on the road, we fared sumptuously without any cost; and the fatigue of our journey was much alleviated by the good humour of my companion, who sung an infinite number of catches on the subjects of love and wine. We took up our lodging the first night at a peasant's house, not far from Abbeville, where we were entertained

with an excellent ragout, cooked by our landlord's daughters, one of whom was very handsome. After having eaten heartily, and drank a sufficient quantity of small wine, we were conducted to a barn, where we found a couple of carpets spread upon clean straw for our reception. — We had not lain in this situation above half an hour, when we heard somebody knock softly at the door, upon which Balthazar got up, and let in our host's two daughters, who wanted to have some private conversation with him in the dark. When they had whispered together some time, the capuchin came to me, and asked if I was insensible to love, and so hard-hearted as to refuse a share of my bed to a pretty maid, who had a *tendre* for me? —— I must own, to my shame, that I suffered myself to be overcome by my passion, and with great eagerneſs seized the occasion, when I understood that the amiable Nanette was to be my bedfellow. In vain did my reason suggest the respect that I owed to my dear mistreſs Narcissa; the idea of that lovely charmer rather increased than allayed the ferment of my spirits; and the young Paisanne had no reason to complain of my remembrance. Early in the morning, the kind creatures left us to our repose, which lasted till eight o'clock,

when we got up, and were treated at breakfast with chocolate and *l'eau de vie*, by our paramours, of whom we took a tender leave, after my companion had confessed and given them absolution. — While we proceeded on our journey, the conversation turned upon the night's adventure, being introduced by the capuchin, who asked me how I liked my lodging. I declared my satisfaction, and talked in rapture of the agreeable Nanette: at which he shook his head, and smiling said, she was a *morceau pour la bonne bouche.* „I never valued myself (continued he) upon any thing so much as the conquest of Nanette; and, vanity apart, I have been pretty fortunate in my amours.“ — This information shocked me not a little, as I was well convinced of his intimacy with her sister; and though I did not care to tax him with downright incest, I professed my astonishment at his last night's choice, when, I supposed, the other was at his devotion. — To this hint he answered, that, besides his natural compliance to the sex, he had another reason to distribute his favours equally between them, namely, to preserve peace in the family, which could not otherwise be maintained; that moreover, Nanette had conceived an affection for me, and he loved her too well to baulk her inclination; more especially, when he

had an opportunity of obliging his friend at the same time. — I thanked him for this instance of his friendship, though I was extremely disgusted at his want of delicacy, and cursed the occasion that threw me in his way. — Libertine as I was, I could not bear to see a man behave so wide of the character he assumed: I looked upon him as a person of very little worth or honesty, and should have even kept a wary eye upon my pocket, if I had thought he could have any temptation to steal. — But I could not conceive the use of money to a capuchin, who is obliged, by the rules of his order, to appear like a beggar, and enjoys all other necessaries of life *gratis;* besides, my fellow-traveller seemed to be of a complexion too carelefs and sanguine to give me any apprehension on that score; so that I proceeded with great confidence, in expectation of being soon at my journey's end.

CHAP. XXXXIII.

We lodge at a House near Amiens, where I am robbed by the Capuchin, who escapes while I am asleep — I go to Noyons in search of him, but without Succefs —— Make my Condition known to several People,

but find no Relief —— Grow desperate —— Join a Company of Soldiers —— Enlist in the Regiment of Picardy —— We are ordered into Germany —— I find the Fatigues of the March almost intolerable —— Quarrel with my Comrade in a Dispute about Politics —— He challenges me to the Field, wounds and disarms me.

The third night of our pilgrimage we passed at a house near Amiens, where Balthazar being unknown, we supped upon indifferent fare, and sour wine, and were fain to lie in a garret, upon an old mattrefs, which, I believe, had been in the possession of ten thousand myriads of fleas time out of mind. — We did not invade their territory with impunity; in lefs than a minute we were attacked by stings innumerable, in spite of which, however, we fell fast asleep, being excessively fatigued with our day's march, and I did not wake till near nine the next morning, when, seeing myself alone, I started up in a terrible fright, and, examining my pockets, found my presaging fear too true! My companion had made free with my cash, and left me to seek my way to Paris by myself! I ran down stairs immediately; and, with a look full of grief and amazement, enquired for the medicant,

who, they gave me to understand, had set out four hours before, after having told them, I was a little indisposed, and desired I might not be disturbed, but be informed, when I should wake, that he had taken the road for Noyons, where he would wait for my coming at the Coq d'Or. I spoke not a word, but with a heavy heart directed my course to that place, at which I arrived in the afternoon, fainting with wearineſs and hunger; but learned, to my utter confusion, that no such person had been there! It was happy for me, that I had a good deal of resentment in my constitution, which animated me on such occasions against the villainy of mankind, and enabled me to bear misfortunes otherwise intolerable. — Boiling with indignation, I discovered to the host my deplorable condition, and inveighed with great bitterneſs against the treachery of Balthazar; at which he shrugged up his shoulders, and, with a peculiar grimace in his countenance, said, he was sorry for my misfortune; but there was no remedy like patience. — At that instant some guests arrived, to whom he hastened to offer his service, leaving me mortified at his indifference, fully persuaded that an innkeeper is the same sordid animal all the world over. — While I stood in the porch, forlorn

and undetermined, venting ejaculations of curses against the thief who robbed me, and the old priest who recommended him to my friendship, a young gentleman, richly dressed, attended by a valet de chambre and two servants in livery, arrived at the inn. I thought I perceived a great deal of sweetneſs and good nature in his countenance; therefore he had no sooner alighted than I accosted him, and in a few words explained my situation. He listened with great politeneſs, and when I had made an end of my story, said, „Well, monsieur, what would you have me to do?" I was effectually abashed at this interrogation, which I believed no man of common sense or generosity could make, and made no other reply than a low bow. He returned the compliment still lower, and tript into an apartment, while the landlord let me know, that my standing there to interrupt company, gave offence, and might do him infinite prejudice. — He had no occasion to repeat his insinuation; I moved from the place immediately; and was so much transported with grief, anger, and disdain, that a torrent of blood gushed from my nostrils. — In this extasy, I quitted Noyons, and betook myself to the fields, where I wandered about like one distracted, till my spirits were quite exhausted, and I was obliged to throw myself down at the root of

a tree, to rest my wearied limbs. — Here my rage forsook me; I began to feel the importunate cravings of nature, and relapsed into silent sorrow, and melancholy reflection. I revolved all the crimes I had been guilty of, and found them so few and venial, that I could not comprehend the justice of that Providence, which, after having exposed me to so much wretchednefs and danger, left me a prey to famine at last in a foreign country, where I had not one friend or acquaintance to close my eyes, and do the last offices of humanity to my miserable carcase. —— A thousand times I wished myself a bear, that I might retreat to woods and deserts, far from the inhospitable haunts of man, where I could live by my own talents, independent of treacherous friends and supercilious scorn.

As I lay in this manner groaning over my haplefs fate, I heard the sound of a violin, and, raising my head, perceived a company of men and women dancing on the grafs at some distance from me. — I looked upon this to be a favourable season for distrefs to attract compassion, when every selfish thought is banished, and the heart dilated with mirth and social joy; wherefore I got up, and approached those happy people, whom I soon discovered to be a party of soldiers, with their wives

and children, unbending and diverting themselves at this rate after the fatigue of a march. I had never before seen such a parcel of scarecrows together; neither could I reconcile their meagre gaunt looks, their squalid and ragged attire, and every other external symptom of extreme woe, with this appearance of festivity. —I saluted them, however, and was received with great politenefs: after which they formed a ring, and danced around me. This jollity had a wonderful effect upon my spirits! I was infected with their gaiety, and, in spite of my dismal situation, forgot my cares, and joined in their extravagance. — When we had recreated ourselves a good while at this diversion, the ladies spread their mantuas on the ground, upon which they emptied their knapsacks of some onions, coarse bread, and a few flasks of poor wine. Being invited to a share of the banquet, I sat down with the rest, and in the whole course of my life never made a more comfortable meal. —— When our repast was ended, we got up again to dance; and, now that I found myself refreshed, I behaved to the admiration of every body: I was loaded with a thousand compliments, and professions of friendship; the men commended my person and agility, and the women were loud in praise of my *bonne*

grace: the serjeant, in particular, expressed so much regard for me, and described the pleasures of a soldier's life with so much art, that I began to listen to his proposal of enlisting me in the service; and the more I considered my own condition, the more I was convinced of the necessity I was under to come to a speedy determination. — Having therefore maturely weighed the circumstances, *pro* and *con*, I signified my consent, and was admitted into the regiment of Picardy, said to be the oldest corps in Europe. — The company to which this command belonged, was quartered at a village not far off, whither we marched next day, and I was presented to my captain, who seemed very well pleased with my appearance, gave me a crown to drink, and ordered me to be accommodated with clothes, arms, and accoutrements. — Then I sold my livery suit, purchased linen, and, as I was at great pains to learn the exercise, in a very short time became a complete soldier.

It was not long before we received orders to join several more regiments, and march with all expedition into Germany, in order to reinforce Marechal Duc de Noailles, who was then encamped with his army on the side of the river Mayne, to watch the motions of the English, Hanoverians, and Hessians,

under the command of the Earl of Stair. We began our march accordingly, and then I became acquainted with that part of a soldier's life to which I had been hitherto a stranger. — It is impossible to describe the hunger and thirst I sustained, and the fatigue I underwent in a march of so many hundred miles; during which, I was so much chafed with the heat and motion of my limbs, that in a very short time the inside of my thighs and legs were deprived of skin, and I proceeded in the utmost torture. This misfortune I owed to the plumpnefs of my constitution, which I cursed, and envied the withered condition of my comrades, whose bodies could not spare juice enough to supply a common issue, and were, indeed, proof against all manner of friction. The continual pain I felt made me fretful, and my peevishnefs was increased by the mortification of my pride, in seeing those miserable wretches, whom a hard gale of wind would have scattered through the air like chaff, bear those toils with alacrity, under which I was ready to sink.

One day, while we enjoyed a halt, and the soldiers with their wives were gone out to dance, according to custom, my comrade staid at home with me on pretence of friendship, and insulted me with his pity and

consolation! He told me, though I was young and tender at present, I would soon be seasoned to the service; and he did not doubt but I should have the honour to contribute in some measure to the glory of the king. ——— „Have courage, therefore, my child, (said he,) and pray to God, that you may be as happy as I am, who have had the honour of serving Lewis the great, and of receiving many wounds in helping to establish his glory.“ — When I looked upon the contemptible object that pronounced these words, I was amazed at the infatuation that possessed him; and could not help expressing my astonishment at the absurdity of a rational being, who thinks himself highly honoured in being permitted to encounter abject poverty, oppression, famine, disease, mutilation, and evident death, merely to gratify the vicious ambition of a prince, by whom his sufferings were disregarded, and his name utterly unknown. I observed that if his situation was the consequence of compulsion, I would praise his patience and fortitude in bearing his lot; if he had taken up arms in defence of his injured country, he was to be applauded for his patriotism; or if he had fled to this way of life as a refuge from a greater evil, he was justifiable in his own conscience, (though I could have no notion

of misery more extreme than that he suffered;) but to put his condition on the footing of conducing to the glory of his prince, was no more than professing himself a desperate slave, who voluntarily underwent the utmost wretchedneſs and peril, and committed the most flagrant crimes, to sooth the barbarous pride of a fellow-creature, his superior in nothing but the power he derived from the submission of such wretches as him. The soldier was very much affronted at the liberty I took with his king, which, he said, nothing but my ignorance could excuse: He affirmed that the characters of princes were sacred, and ought not to be prophaned by the censure of their subjects, who were bound by their allegiance to obey their commands, of what nature soever, without scruple or repining. — And advised me to correct the rebellious principles I had imbibed among the English, who, for their insolence to their kings, were notorious all over the world, even to a proverb.

In vindication of my countrymen, I repeated all the arguments commonly used to prove that every man has a natural right to liberty; that allegiance and protection are reciprocal; that when the mutual tie is broken by the tyranny of the king, he is accountable

to the people for his breach of contract, and subject to the penalty of the law; and that those insurrections of the English, which are branded with the name of rebellion, by the slaves of arbitrary power, were no other than glorious efforts to rescue that independence which was their birthright from the ravenous claws of usurping ambition. — The Frenchman, provoked at the little deference I paid to the kingly name, lost all patience, and reproached me in such a manner, that my temper forsook me, and I clinched my fist, with an intention to give him a hearty box on the ear. — Perceiving my design, he started back, and demanded a parley; upon which I checked my indignation, and he gave me to understand, that a Frenchman never forgave a blow; therefore, if I was not weary of my life, I would do well to spare him that mortification, and do him the honour of measuring his sword with mine, like a gentleman. — I took his advice, and followed him to the field hard by, where, indeed, I was ashamed at the pitiful figure of my antagonist, who was a poor, little, shivering creature, decrepid with age, and blind of one eye. — But I soon found the folly of judging from appearances; being at the second pafs wounded in the sword hand, and immediately disarmed, with such a

ſerk, that I thought the joint was dislocated. — I was no leſs confounded than enraged at this event, especially as my adverſary did not bear his ſucceſs with all the moderation that might have been expected; for he insisted upon my asking pardon for affronting his king and him — This proposal I would by no means comply with, but told him it was a mean condescension, which no gentleman in his circumstances ought to propose, nor any in my situation ought to perform; — and that if he persisted in his ungenerous demand, I would in my turn claim satisfaction with my musket, when we should be more upon a par than with the sword, of which he seemed so much master.

CHAP. XXXXIV.

In order to be revenged I learn the Science of Defence — We join the Mareschal Duc de Noailles — Are engaged with the Allies at Dettingen, and put to flight —— The Behaviour of the French Soldiers on that occasion —— I industriously seek another Combat with the old Gascon, and vanquish him in my Turn —— Our Regiment is put into Winter Quarters at Rheims, where I find my Friend Strap —— Our Recogni-

tion — He supplies me with Money, and procures my Discharge —— We take a Trip to Paris; from whence by the Way of Flanders we set out for London, where we safely arrive.

He was disconcerted at this declaration, to which he made no reply, but repaired to the dancers, among whom he recounted his victory with many exaggerations and gasconades; while I, taking up my sword, went to my quarters, and examined my wound, which I found was of no consequence. — The same day, an Irish drummer, having heard of my misfortune, visited me, and after having condoled me on the chance of war, gave me to understand, that he was master of his sword, and would in a very short time instruct me so thoroughly in that noble science, that I should be able to chastise the old Gascon for his insolent boasting at my expence. — This friendly office he proffered on pretence of the regard he had for his countrymen; but I afterwards learnt the true motive was no other than a jealously he entertained of a correspondence between the Frenchman and his wife, which he did not think proper to resent in person. —— Be this as it will, I accepted his offer, and

practised his lessons with such application, that I soon believed myself a match for my conqueror. In the mean time we continued our march, and arrived at the camp of Mareschall Noailles, the night before the battle of Dettingen. Notwithstanding the fatigue we had undergone, our regiment was one of those that were ordered next day to crofs the river, under the command of the Duc de Gramont, to take possession of a narrow defile, through which the allies must of necessity have passed at a great disadvantage, or remain where they were, and perish for want of provision, if they would not condescend to surrender at discretion. —— How they suffered themselves to be pent up in this manner, it is not my province to relate; I shall only observe, that when we had taken possession of our ground, I heard an old officer, in conversation with another, exprefs a surprize at the conduct of Lord Stair, who had the reputation of a good general. — But it seems, at this time, that nobleman was over-ruled, and only acted in an inferior character; so that no part of the blame could be imputed to him, who declared his disapprobation of the step, in consequence of which the whole army was in the utmost danger: but Providence or destiny acted miracles in their behalf,

by disposing the Duc de Gramont to quit his advantageous post, paſs the defile, and attack the English, who were drawn up in order of battle on the plain, and who handled us so roughly, that, after having lost a great number of men, we turned our backs without ceremony, and fled with such precipitation, that many hundreds perished in the river, through pure fear and confusion; for the enemy were so generous, that they did not pursue us one inch of ground; and if our consternation would have permitted, we might have retreated with great order and deliberation.—— But, notwithstanding the royal clemency of the king of Great Britain, who headed the allies in person, and, no doubt, put a stop to the carnage, our loſs amounted to 5000 men, among whom were many officers of distinction. Our miscarriage opened a passage for the foe to Hanau, whither they immediately marched, leaving their sick and wounded to the care of the French, who next day took possession of the field of battle, buried the dead, and treated the living with humanity. ——— This circumstance was a great consolation to us, who thence took occasion to claim the victory: And the genius of the French nation never appeared more conspicuous than now, in the rhodomontades

they uttered on the subject of their generosity and courage. Every man (by his own account) performed feats that eclipsed all the heroes of antiquity. — One compared himself to a lion retiring at leisure from his cowardly pursuers, who keep at a wary distance, and gall him with their darts. — Another likened himself to a bear that retreats with his face to the enemy, who dare not assail him; and the third assumed the character of a desperate stag, that turns upon the hounds, and keeps them at bay. — There was not a private soldier engaged, who had not by the prowefs of his single arm demolished a whole platoon, or put a squadron of horse to flight; and, among others, the meagre Gascon extolled his exploits above those of Hercules or Charlemagne. — As I still retained my resentment for the disgrace I suffered in my last rencountre with him, and now, that I thought myself qualified, longed for an opportunity to retrieve my honour. I magnified the valour of the English with all the hyperboles I could imagine, and decried the pusillanimity of the French in the same stile, comparing them to hares flying before greyhounds, or mice pursued by cats; and passed an ironical compliment on the speed he exerted in his flight, which, considering his

age and infirmities, I said was surprising. — He was stung to the quick by this sarcasm, and, with an air of threatening disdain, bade me know myself better, and remember the correction I had already received from him for my insolence; for he might not always be in the humour of sparing a wretch who abused his goodneſs. To this inuendo I made no reply, but by a kick in the breech, which overturned him in an instant. He started up with wonderful agility, and, drawing his sword, attacked me with great fury. Several people interposed; but when he informed them of its being an affair of honour, they retired, and left us to decide the battle by ourselves. I sustained his onset with little damage, having only received a small scratch on my right shoulder, and, seeing his breath and vigour almost exhausted, assaulted him in my turn, closed with him, and wrested his sword out of his hand in the struggle. — Having thus acquired the victory, I desired him to beg his life; to which demand he made no answer, but shrugged up his shoulders to his ears, expanded his hands, elevated the skin on his forehead and eye-brows, and depressed the corners of his mouth in such a manner, that I could scarce refrain from laughing aloud at

his grotesque appearance. — That I might, however, mortify his vanity, which triumphed without bounds over my misfortune, I thrust his sword up to the hilt in something (it was not a tansy) that lay smoaking on the plain, and joined the rest of the soldiers with an air of tranquillity and indifference.

There was nothing more of moment attempted by either of the armies during the remaining part of the campaign, which being ended, the English marched back to the Netherlands; part of our army was detached to French Flanders; and our regiment ordered into winter quarters in Champagne. — It was the fate of the grenadier company, to which I now belonged, to lie at Rheims, where I found myself in the utmost want of every thing: my pay, which amounted to five sols a day, far from supplying me with necessaries, being scarce sufficient to procure a wretched subsistence to keep soul and body together; so that I was, by hunger and hard duty, brought down to the meagre condition of my fellow-soldiers; and my linen reduced from three tolerable shirts, to two pair of sleeves and necks, the bodies having been long ago converted into spatterdashes; and after all, I was better provided than any private man in the regiment. In this urgency

of my affairs, I wrote to my uncle in England, though my hopes from that quarter were not at all sanguine, for the reasons I have already explained, and in the mean time had recourse to my old remedy, patience; consoling myself with the flattering suggestions of a lively imagination, that never abandoned me in my distreſs.

One day, while I stood centinel at a gate of a general officer, a certain nobleman came to the door, followed by a gentleman in mourning, to whom, at parting, I heard him say, „You may depend upon my good offices. — This assurance was answered by a low bow of the person in black, who turning to go away, discovered to me the individual countenance of my old friend and adherent Strap. — I was so much astonished at the sight, that I lost the power of utterance, and before I could recollect myself he was gone, without taking any notice of me. — Indeed, had he staid, I scarcely should have ventured to accost him; because, though I was perfectly well acquainted with the features of his face, I could not be positively certain as to the rest of his person, which was very much altered for the better since he left me at London; neither could I conceive by what means he was enabled to appear in the

sphere of a gentleman, to which, while I knew him, he had not even the ambition to aspire. — But I was too much concerned in the affair to neglect further information, and therefore took the first opportunity of asking the porter if he knew the gentleman to whom the Marquis spoke. The Swifs told me his name was Monsieur d'Estrapes, that he had been *valet de chambre* to an English gentleman lately deceased, and that he was very much regarded by the marquis for his fidelity to his master, between whom and that nobleman a very intimate friendship had subsisted. — Nothing could be more agreeable to me than this piece of intelligence, which banished all doubt of its being my friend, who had found means to Frenchify his name as well as his behaviour since we parted. — As soon, therefore, as I was relieved, I went to his lodging, according to a direction given me by the Swifs, and had the good fortune to find him at home. That I might surprize him the more, I concealed my name and businefs, and only desired the servant of the house to tell Monsieur d'Estrapes, that I begged the honour of half an hour's conversation with him. — He was confounded and dismayed at the message, when he unterstood it was sent by a soldier. Though he was conscious to himself

of no crime, all that he had heard of the Bastille appeared to his imagination with aggravated horror; and it was not before I had waited a considerable time, that he had resolution enough to bid the servant shew me up stairs. — When I endered his chamber, he returned my bow with great civility, and endeavoured, with forced complaisance, to disguise his fear, which appeared in the palenefs of his face, the wildnefs of his looks, and the shaking of his limbs. —— I was diverted at his consternation, which redoubled, when I told him in French, I had businefs for his private ear, and demanded a particular audience. — The valet being withdrawn, I asked in the same language, if his name was d'Estrapes, to which he answered with a faultering tongue, „The same, at your service." — „Are you a Frenchman?" (said I.) — „I have not the honour of being a Frenchman born, (replied he,) but I have an infinite veneration for the country." — I then desired he would do me the honour to look at me, which he no sooner did, than, struck with my appearance, he started back, and cried in English, „O Jesus! — Sure it can't! No, 'tis impossible!" — I smiled at his interjections, saying, „I suppose you are too much of a gentleman to own your friend in adversity." — When he heard me

pronounce these words in our own language, he leaped upon me in a transport of joy, hung about my neck, kissed me from ear to ear, and blubbered like a great school-boy who had been whipt. — Then observing my drefs, he set up his throat, crying, „O Lord! O Lord! that ever I should live to see my dearest friend reduced to the condition of a foot soldier in the French service! Why did you consent to my leaving you? — But I know the reason — you thought you had got more creditable friends, and grew ashamed of my acquaintance — Ah! Lord help us! though I was a little short-sighted, I was not altogether blind: — And though I did not complain, I was not the lefs sensible of your unkindnefs, which was indeed the only thing that induced me to ramble abroad, the Lord knows whither: but I must own it has been a lucky ramble for me, and so I forgive you, and may God forgive you. — O Lord! O Lord! is it come to this?“ — I was nettled at the charge, which, though just, I could not help thinking unseasonable, and told him, with some tartnefs, that, whether his suspicions were ill or well grounded, he might have chosen a more convenient opportunity of introducing them: And that the question now was, whether or no he found himself disposed to lend me any assistance. ——“ Dis-

posed! (replied he with great emotion,) I thought you had known me so well, as to assure yourself, without asking, that I, and all that belongs to me, are at your command. — In the mean time, you shall dine with me, and I will tell you something that, perhaps, will not be displeasing unto you. — Then wringing my hand, he said, „It makes my heart bleed to see you in that garb.“ — I thanked him for his invitation, which, I observed, could not be unwelcome to a person who had not eaten a comfortable meal these seven months: But I had another request to make, which I begged he would grant before dinner, and that was the loan of a shirt: For, though my back had been many weeks a stranger to any comfort of that kind, my skin was not yet familiarized to the want of it. — He stared in my face, with a woeful countenance at this declaration, which he could scarce believe, until I explained it, by unbuttoning my coat, and disclosing my naked body; a circumstance that shocked the tender-hearted Strap, who, with tears in his eyes, ran to a chest of drawers, and taking out some linen, presented to me a very fine ruffled Holland shirt, and cambrick neckcloth, assuring me, he had three dozen of the same kind at my

service. — I was ravished at this piece of good news; and having accommodated myself in a moment, hugged my benefactor for his generous offer, saying, I was overjoyed to find him undebauched by prosperity, which seldom fails to corrupt the heart. He bespoke for dinner some soup and bouille, a couple of pullets roasted, and a dish of asparagus, and in the interim entertained me with biscuit and Burgundy; after which repast he entreated me to gratify his longing desire of knowing every circumstance of my fortune since his departure from London. — This request I complied with, beginning at the adventure of Gawky, and relating every particular event in which I had been concerned from that day to the present hour. During the recital my friend was strongly affected, according to the various situations described: He started with surprise, glowed with indignation, gaped with curiosity, smiled with pleasure, trembled with fear, and wept with sorrow, as the vicissitudes of my life inspired these different passions: and when my story was ended, signified his amazement on the whole, by lifting up his eyes and hands, and protesting, that, though I was a young man, I had suffered more than all the blessed martyrs.

After dinner, I desired in my turn to know the particulars of his peregrination; and he satisfied me in a few words, by giving me to understand, that he had lived a year at Paris with his master, who in that time having acquired the language, as well as the fashionable exercises, to perfection, made a tour of France and Holland, during which excursion, he was so unfortunate as to meet with three of his own countrymen on their travels, in whose company he committed such excesses, that his constitution failed, and he fell into a consumption; that, by the advice of physicians, he went to Montpelier for the benefit of good air, and recovered so well in six weeks, that he returned to Rheims, seemingly in good health, where he had not continued above a month, when he was seized with a loosenefs that carried him off in ten days, to the unspeakable sorrow of all who knew him, and especially of Strap, who had been very happy in his service, and given such satisfaction, that his master, on his deathbed, recommended him to several persons of distinction, for his diligence, sobriety, and affection, and left him by will, his wearing apparel, gold watch, sword, rings, ready money, and all the moveables he had in France, to the value of

three hundred pounds, „which I now (said he) in the sight of God and man surrender to your absolute disposal: Here are my keys, take them, I beseech you, and God give you joy of the possession.“ — My brain was almost turned by the sudden change of fortune, which I could scarce believe real: however, I positively refused this extravagant proffer of my friend, and put him in mind of my being a soldier; at which hint he started, crying, Odso! that's true — we must procure your discharge. — I have some interest with a nobleman who is able to do me that favour.“ — We consulted about this affair, and it was determined, that Mons. d'Estrapes should wait upon the marquis in the morning, and tell him he had by accident found his brother, whom he had not seen for many years before, a private soldier in the regiment of Picardy, and implore that nobleman's interest for his discharge. — In the mean time we enjoyed ourselves over a bottle of good Burgundy, and spent the evening in concerting schemes for our future conduct, in case I should be so lucky as to get rid of the army. — The busineſs was to make ourselves easy for life, by means of his legacy, a task very difficult, and, in the usual methods of laying out money, altogether impracticable; so that, after much

canvassing, we could come to no resolution that night, but, when we parted, recommended the matter to the serious attention of each other. As for my own part, I puzzled my imagination to no purpose. When I thought of turning merchant, the smallnefs of our stock, and the risk of seas, enemies, and markets, deterred me from that scheme. — If I should settle as a surgeon in my own country, I should find the businefs already overstocked; or if I pretended to set up in England, must labour unter want of friends, and powerful opposition, obstacles insurmountable by the most shining merit; neither should I succeed in my endeavours to rise in the state, inasmuch as I could neither flatter nor pimp for courtiers, nor prostitute my pen in defence of a wicked and contemptible administration. — Before I could form any feasible project, I fell asleep, and my fancy was blessed with the image of my dear Narcissa, who seemed to smile upon my passion, and offer her hand as a reward for all my toils.

Early in the morning I went to the lodging of my friend, whom I found exulting over his happy invention; for I no sooner entered his apartment, than he addressed himself to me in these words, with a smile of selfapplause: „Well, Mr. Random, a lucky

thought may come into a fool's head sometimes. I have hit it — I'll hold you a button my plan is better than your's, for all your learning. — But you shall have the preference in this as in all other things; therefore proceed, and let us know the effects of your meditation — and then I will impart my own simple cogitations." — I told him, that not one thought had occurred to me which deserved the least notice, and signified my impatience to be acquainted with the fruits of his reflection. — As we have not (said he) money sufficient to maintain us during a tedious expectation, it is my opinion, that a bold push must be made; and I see none so likely to succeed as your appearing in the character of a gentleman, (which is your due,) and making your addresses to some lady of fortune who can render you independent at once. — Nay, don't stare — I affirm that this scheme is both prudent and honourable; for I would not have you throw yourself away upon an old toothlefs, wheezing dame, whose breath would stink you into a consumption in lefs than three months; neither would I advise you to assume the character of a wealthy squire, as your common fortune-hunters do, by which means many a poor lady is cheated into matrimony, and, instead

of enjoying the pomp and grandeur that was promised, sees her dowry seized by her husband's rapacious creditors, and herself reduced to misery and despair. — No, I know you have a soul that disdains such imposition; and are masters of qualifications both of mind and body, which alone intitle you to a match that will set you above the world. —— I have clothes in my possession that a duke need not be ashamed to wear. — I believe they will fit you as they are; if not, there are plenty of taylors in France. — Let us take a short trip to Paris, and provide ourselves with all other necessaries, then set out for England, where I intend to do myself the honour of attending you in quality of a valet. — This expedient will save you the expence of a servant, shaving and dressing; and I doubt not but, by the blessing of God, we shall bring matters to a speedy and fortunate issue." — Extravagant as this proposal was, I listened to it with pleasure, because it flattered my vanity, and indulged a ridiculous hope I began to entertain of my inspiring Narcissa with a mutual flame.

After breakfast, Monsieur d'Estrapes went to pay his devoirs to the marquis, and was so succefsful in his application, that I obtained a discharge in a few days; upon

which we set out for Paris. — Here I had time to reflect and congratulate myself upon the sudden transition of fate, which to bear with moderation required some degree of philosophy and self-denial. — This truth will be more obvious, if I give a detail of the particulars, to the quiet possession of which I was raised in an instant, from the most abject misery and contempt. — My wardrobe consisted of five fashionable coats, full mounted; two of which were plain, one of cut velvet, one trimmed with gold, and another with silver lace: two frocks; one of white drab, with large plate buttons, the other of blue with gold binding: one waistcoat of gold brocade; one of blue satin, embroidered with silver; one of green silk, trimmed with broad figured gold lace; one of black silk with fringes; one of white satin; one of blak cloth, and one of scarlet; six pair of cloth breeches; one pair of crimson and another of black velvet: twelve pair of white silk stockings, as many of black silk, and the same number of fine cotton; one hat laced with gold *point d'espagne*, another with silver lace scolloped, a third with gold binding, and a fourth plain; three dozen of fine ruffled shirts, as many neckcloths; one dozen of cambric-handkerchiefs, and the like

number of silk. The other moveables, which I possessed, by the generosity and friendship of Strap, were a gold watch with a chased case, two valuable diamond rings, two mourning swords, one with a silver handle, and a fourth cut steel inlaid with gold; a diamond stock-buckle, and a set of stone buckles for the knees and shoes; a pair of silver mounted pistols with rich housings; a gold headed cane; and a snuff-box of tortoise-shell mounted with gold, having the picture of a lady in the top. — The gentleman left many other things of value, which my friend had converted into cash before I met with him; so that, over and above these particulars, our stock in ready money amounted to something more than two hundred pounds.

Thus equipt, I put on the gentleman of figure, and, attended by my honest friend, who was contented with the station of my valet, visited the Louvre, examined the gallery of Luxembourgh, and appeared at Versailles, where I had the honour of seeing his Most Christian Majesty eat a considerable quantity of olives. — During the month I spent at Paris, I went several times to court the Italian comedy, opera, and play house, danced at a masquerade, and, in short, saw every thing remarkable in and about that capital. —

Then we set out for England by the way of Flanders, passed through Brussels, Ghent, and Bruges, and took shipping at Ostend, from whence in fourteen hours we arrived at Deal, hired a post-chaise, and in twelve hours more got safe to London; having disposed of our heavy baggage in the waggon.

CHAP. XXXXV.

I enquire for my Uncle, and understand he is gone to Sea, —— Take Lodgings at Charing-crofs —— Go to the Play, where I meet with an Adventure —— Dine at an Ordinary; the Guests described —— Become acquainted with Medlor and Doctor Wagtail.

As soon as we alighted at the inn, I dispatched Strap to enquire for my uncle, at the Union Flag in Wapping; and he returned in a little time, with an account of Mr. Bowling's having gone to sea, mate of a merchant-ship, after a long and unsuccefsful application and attendance at the admiralty; where, it seems, the interest he depended upon was not sufficient to reinstate him, or recover the pay that was due to him when he quitted the Thunder.

Next day I hired very handsome lodgings not far from Charing-crofs: and in the evening dressed myself in a plain suit of the true Paris cut, and appeared in a front box at the play, where I saw a good deal of company, and was vain enough to believe, that I was observed with an uncommon degree of attention and applause. This silly conceit intoxicated me so much, that I was guilty of a thousand ridiculous coquetries; and I dare say, how favourable soever the thoughts of the company might be at my first appearance, they were soon changed, by my absurd behaviour, into pity or contempt. — I rose and sat down, covered and uncovered my head twenty times between the acts; pulled out my watch, clapped it to my ear, wound it up, set it, gave it the hearing again; — displayed my snuff box, affected to take snuff, that I might have an opportunity of shewing my brilliant, and wiped my nose with a perfumed handkerchief; — then dangled my cane, and adjusted my sword knot, and acted many more fooleries of the same kind, in hopes of attaining the character of a pretty fellow, in the acquiring of which, I found two considerable obstructions in my disposition; namely, a natural reserve and jealous sensibility. Fain would I have entered into con-

versation with the people around me; but I was restrained by the fear of being censured for my assurance, as well as by reflecting that I was more entitled to a compliment of this kind from them, than they to such condescension from a stranger like me. —— How often did I redden at the frequent whispers and loud laughter of my fellow beaux, which I imagined were excited by me! and how often did I envy the happy indifference of those choice spirits who beheld the distreſs of the scene, without discovering the least symptom of approbation or concern! My attention was engaged in spite of myself, and I could not help weeping with the heroine of the stage; though I practised a great many shifts to conceal this piece of unpolite weakneſs. — When the play was ended, I sat waiting for an opportunity of handing some lady to her coach; but every one was attended by such a number of officious gallants, that for a long time I was baulked in my expectation. —— At length, however, I perceived a very handsome creature, genteely dressed sitting by herself in a box, at some distance from me; upon which I went up to her, and offered my service. — She seemed to be in some confusion, thanked me for my complaisance, and with a tender look

declined giving me the trouble; looking at her watch, and testifying her surprise at the negligence of her footman, whom she had ordered to have a chair ready for her at that hour. — I repeated my entreaty with all the eloquence and compliment I was master of; and in the event, she was prevailed upon to accept of a proposal I made, to send my servant for a chair or coach: Accordingly, Strap was dispatched for that purpose, and returned without succefs. By this time the play-house was quite empty, and we were obliged to retire. As I led her through the passage, I observed five or six young fellows of fashion standing in a corner, one of whom, as I thought, tipt my charmer the wink; and when we were past I heard them set up a loud laugh. — This note aroused my attention, and I was resolved to be fully satisfied of this lady's character before I should have any nearer connection with her. — As no convenience appeared, I proposed to conduct her to a tavern, where we might stay a few minutes, till my servant could fetch a coach from the Strand. — She seemed particularly shy of trusting herself in a tavern with a stranger; but at last yielded to my pathetic remonstrances, rather than endanger her health, by remaining in a cold damp

thoroughfare. — Having thus far succeeded, I begged to know what wine she would be pleased to drink a glafs of; but she professed the greatest aversion to all sorts of strong liquors; and it was with much difficulty that I could persuade her to eat a jelly. — In the mean time, I endeavoured to alleviate the uneasinefs she discovered, by saying all the agreeable things I could think of; at which she would often sigh, and regard me with a languishing look, that seemed however too near a-kin to the lewd leer of a courtezan. — This discovery, added to my former suspicion, while it put me upon my guard against her arts, divested me of reserve, and enabled me to entertain her with gaity and freedom. — In the course of her conversation, I pressed her to allow me the honour of waiting upon her next day at her lodgings, a request which she with many apologies, refused, least it should give umbrage to Sir John, who was of a disposition apt to be fretted with trifles. — This information, by which I was to understand that her husband was a knight, did not check my addresses, which became more and more importunate, and I was even hardy enough to ravish a kifs. — But, O heavens! instead of banquetting on the ambrosial flavour that

her delicacy of complexion promised, I was almost suffocated with the steams of Geneva! An exhalation of this kind from a mouth which had just before declared an utter abhorrence of all spirituous liquors, not only changed my doubts into certainty, but my raptures into loathing; and it would have been impossible for me to have preserved common complaisance five minutes longer, when my servant returned with the coach. I took the advantage of this occasion, and presented my hand to the lady, who put in practice against me the whole artillery of her charms, ogling, languishing, sighing, and sqeezing, with so little reserve, that Strap perceived her tendernefs, and rubbed his hands with joy as he followed us to the door; — but I was proof against all her endearments, and handed her into the coach with an intention to take my leave immediately. She guessed my design, and invited me to her house, whispering, that now Sir John was gone to bed, she could have the pleasure of my conversation for half an hour without interruption. I told her there was no mortification I would not undergo rather than endanger the repose of her ladyship; and bidding the coachman drive on, wished her a good night. She lost all temper at my indifference; and stopping the coach at the

distance of about twenty yards from me, popped out her head, and bawled with the lungs of a fish-woman, „Damn you, you dog, won't you pay the coach hire?“ As I made no answer, she held forth against me with an eloquence peculiar to herself; calling me pitiful fellow, scoundrel, and a hundred such appellations; concluding with an oath, that, for all my appearance, she believed I had got no money in my pocket.

Having thus vented her indignation, she ordered the coachman to proceed, and I returned to the tavern, where I bespoke something for supper, very well pleased at the issue of this adventure. — I dispensed with the attendance of the waiter at table, on pretence that my own servant was present; and when we were alone, said to Strap, „Well, Monsieur d'Estrapes, what do you think of this lady?“ — My friend, who had not opened his mouth since her departure, could make no other reply than the monosyllable „Think;“ which he pronounced with an air of fear and astonishment. — Surprised at this emphasis, I surveyed my valet, and perceiving a wildneſs in his looks, asked if he had seen his grandfather's ghost? „Ghost! (said he,) I am sure I have seen a devil incarnate! Who would have thought that so much devilish

malice and Billingsgate could lurk under such sweetneſs of countenance and modesty of behaviour? Ah! God help us! *Fronti nulla fides* — *nimium ne crede colori* — but we ought to down on our knees and bleſs God for delivering us from the jaws of that painted sepulchre." — I was pretty much of Straps opinion; and though I did not believe myself in any danger from the allurements of that sisterhood, I determined to act with great circumspection for the future, and shun all comerce of that kind, as equally prejudicial to my purse and constitution.

My next care was to introduce myself into a set of good acquaintance; for which purpose I frequented a certain coffee-house, noted for the resort of good company, English as well as foreigners, where my appearance procured all the civilities and and advances I could desire. As there was an ordinary in the same house, I went up stairs to dinner with the other guests, and found myself at a table with thirteen people, the greatest part of whom were better dressed than myself. — The conversation, which was mostly carried on in the French, turned chiefly on politics; and I soon found the whole company was in the French interest, myself excepted, and a testy old gentleman, who contradicted every thing

that was advanced in favour of his Most Christian Majesty, with a surlinefs truly English. — But this trusty patriot, who had never been out of his own country, and drew all his maxims and notions from prejudice and hearsay, was very unequal to his antagonists, who where superior to him in learning and experience, and often took the liberty of travellers, in asserting things which were not strictly true, because they thought themselves in no danger of being detected by him. The claim of the queen of Spain to the Austrian dominions in Italy, was fully explained and vindicated, by a person who sat opposite to me, and by the solemnity of his manner, and the richnefs of his apparel, seemed to be a foreign ambassador. — This dissertation produced another on the pragmatic sanction, handled with great warmth by a young gentleman at my right hand, dressed in a green frock trimmed with gold, who justified the French king for his breach of that contract; and affirmed that he could not have observed it, without injuring his own glory. Although I was not at all convinced by this gentleman's arguments, I could not help admiring his vivacity, which I imagined must be the effect of his illustrious birth and noble education, and accordingly rated him in my conjecture as

a young prince on his travels. — The discourse was afterwards shifted by an old gentleman, of a very martial appearance, to the last campaign, when the battle of Dettingen was fought over again, with so many circumstances to the honour of the French, and disadvantage of the allies, that I began to entertain some doubts of my having been there in person, and took the liberty to mention some objections to what he advanced. — This freedom introduced a dispute, which lasted a good while, to the mortification of all present; and was at last referred to the dermination of a grave person, whom they stiled doctor, and who, under a shew of great moderation, decided it against me, with so little regard to truth, that I taxed him with partiality in pretty severe terms, to the no small entertainment of the true English politician, who rejoiced at my defence of a cause he had so often espoused without succefs. My opponent, pleased with the victory he had gained, affected a great deal of candour, and told me, he should not have been so positive, if he had not been at great pains to inform himself of each particular.“ — „Indeed, (said he) I am convinced that, the previous steps considered, things could not happen otherwise; for we generals who have seen service, though

we may not be on the spot ourselves, know by the least sketch of the disposition what must be the event." —— He then censured, with great freedom, every circumstance of the conduct of those who commanded the allies; from thence made a transition to the ministry, which he honoured with many invectives, for employing people who had neither experience nor capacity, to the prejudice of old officers who had been distinguished for both; dropt many hints of his own importance; and concluded with observing, that the French and Spaniards know better how to value generals of merit; the good effects of which were seen in the conquests they gain, and the admirable discipline of their troops, which are at the same time better clothed and paid than any soldiers in the universe. These remarks furnished the green knight with an opportunity of launching out in the praise of the French government in general, civil as well as military; on which occasion he made many odious comparisons to the disadvantage of the English. Every body, almost, assented to the observations he made; and the doctor gave his sanction, by saying, the people in France were undoubtedly the happiest subjects in the world. — I was so much astonished and confounded at their

infatuation and effrontery, that I had not power to utter one word in opposition to their assertions; but my morose associate could not put up with the indignity that was offered to Old England, and therefore with a satirical grin addressed himself to the general in these words: „Sir, Sir, I have often heard it said, *She's a villainous bird that befouls her own nest.* —— As for what those people, who are foreigners, say, I don't mind it, they know no better; but you, who were bred and born, and have got your bread under the English government, should have more regard to gratitude as well as truth, in censuring your native country. — If the ministry have thought fit to lay you aside, I suppose they have their own reasons for so doing; and you ought to remember that you still live on the bounty of this nation. As for these gentlemen (meaning the prince and ambassador) who make so free with our constitution, laws, and genius of our people, I think they might shew a little more respect for their benefactors, who, I must own, are to blame, in harbouring, protecting, and encouraging such ungrateful vagrants as they are," — At these words the chevalier in green started up in a great passion, and laying his hand on the hilt of his hanger, „Ha, *foutre!*" —— The Englishman, on the

other hand, grasping his cane, cried, „Don't *foutre* me, sirrah, or by G—d, I'll knock you down." — The company interposed, the Frenchman sat down again, and his antagonist proceeded — „Lookee, Monsieur, you know very well, that had you dared to speak so freely of the administration of your own country in Paris, as you have done of ours in London, you would have been sent to the Bastille without ceremony, where you might have rotted in a dungeon, and never seen the light of the sun again. — Now, Sir, take my word for it, although our constitution screens us from such oppression, we want not laws to chastise the authors of seditious discourse; and if I hear another syllable out of your mouth, in comtempt or prejudice of this kingdom, I will give you a convincing proof of what I advance, and have you laid by the heels for your presumption." —— This declaration had an effect on the company as sudden as surprising. —— The young prince became supple as a spaniel, the ambassador trembled, the general sat silent and abashed, and the doctor, who, it seems, had felt the rod of power, grew pale as death, and assured us all, that he had no intention to affront any person or people. —— „Your principles, doctor, (resumed the old gentleman,)

are no secret. —— I have nothing to say upon that head; but am very much surprised that a man who despises us so much, should, notwithstanding, live among us, when he has no visible motive for so doing. —— Why don't you take up your habitation in your beloved France, where you may rail at England without censure." — To this remonstrance the doctor thought proper to make no reply; and an unsocial silence ensued; which I perceiving, took notice, that it was pity such idle disputes, maintained very often through whim or diversion, should create any misunderstanding among gentlemen of good sense; and proposed to drink down all animosity in another bottle. —— This motion was applauded by the whole company; The wine was brought; and the English champion declaring he had no spleen against any man for differing in opinion from him, any more than for difference of complexion, drank to the good health of all present; the compliment was returned, and the conversation once more became unreserved, though more general than before. Among other topics, the subject of war was introduced, on which the general declaimed, with great eloquence, recounting many of his own exploits by way of illustration. In the course

of his harangue he happened to mention the word *epaulement*, upon which the testy gentleman asked the meaning of that term. — „I'll tell you what an epaulement is, (replied he.) — I never saw an epaulement but once — and that was at the siege of Namur — In a council of war, Monsieur Cohorn, the famous engineer, affirmed the place could not be taken.“ —— „Yes (said the prince of Vandemont) it may be taken by an epaulement.“ — This was immediately put in execution, and in twenty-four hours, Mareschal Boufflers was fain to capitulate. Here he made a full stop; and the old gentleman repeated the question, „But pray what is an epaulement?“ —— To this interrogation the officer made no immediate reply, but rang the bell, and called for a bill, which being brought, he threw down his proportion of the reckoning, and telling the company, he would shew them an epaulement when his Majesty should think fit to entrust him with the command of our army abroad, strutted away with great dignity. I could not imagine why he was so shy of explaining one of the most simple terms of fortification; which I forthwith described as a side-work, composed of earth, gabions, or fascines; but I was very much surprised when I after-

wards understood that his reserve proceeded from his ignorance. — Having paid our bill, we adjourned to the coffee-room, where my fellow labourer insisted on treating me with a dish, giving me to understand, at the same time, that I had acquired his good opinion, both with respect to my principles and understanding. — I thanked him for his compliment; and professing myself an utter stranger in this part of the world, begged he would have the goodneſs to inform me of the quality and characters of the people who dined above. — This request was a real favour to one of his disposition, which was no leſs communicative than curious: he therefore complied with great satisfaction, and told me, to my extreme astonishment, that the supposed young prince was a dancer at one of the theatres; and the ambassador no other than a fiddler belonging to the opera. „The doctor (said he) is a Roman Catholic priest, who sometimes appears in the character of an officer, and assumes the name of captain; but more generally takes the garb, title, and behaviour of a physician, in which capacity he weedles himself into the confidence of weakminded people, and, by arguments no leſs specious than false, converts them from their religion and allegiance. — He has been in the hands of

justice more than once for such practices; but he is a fly dog, and manages matters with so much craft, that hitherto he has escaped for a short imprisonment. — As for the general, you may see he has owed his promotion more to his interest than his capacity; and now, that the eyes of the ministry are opened, his friends dead, or become inconsiderable, he is struck of the list, and obliged to put up with a yearly pension: In consequence of this reduction, he is become malcontent, and inveighs against the government in all companies, with so little discretion, that I am surprised at the lenity of the administration in overlooking his insolence: but the truth of the matter is, he owes his safety to his weaknefs and want of importance. —— He has seen a little, and but a little service; and yet, if you will take his word for it, there has not been a great action performed in the field since the Revolution, in which he was not principally concerned. When a story is told of any great general, he immediately matches it with one of himself; though he is often unhappy in his invention, and commits such grofs blunders in the detail, that every body is in pain for him. — Caesar, Pompey, and

Alexander the Great, are continually in his mouth; and as he reads a good deal, without any judgment to digest it, his ideas are confused, and his harangues are as unintelligible as infinite; for when once he begins, there is no chance of his leaving off speaking, while one person remains to yield attention; therefore the only expedient I know, for putting a stop to his loquacity, is to lay hold of some incongruity he has uttered, and demand an explanation; or ask the meaning of some difficult term that he knows by name only: this method will effectually put him to silence, if not to flight, as it happened when I enquired about an *epaulement*.— Had he been acquainted with the signification of that word, his triumph would have been intolerable, and we must have quitted the field first, or been worried with impertinence. — Having thus gratified my curiosity, the old gentleman began do discover his own, in questions relating to myself, to which I thought proper to return ambiguous answers. — „I presume, Sir, (said he,) you have travelled." — I answered, „Yes." „I dare say, you would find it very expensive," (said he.) — I replied, „To be sure, one cannot travel without money." — „That I know by experience, (said he;) for I myself

take a trip to Bath or Tunbridge every season: and one must pay sauce for what he has on the road as well in other countries as in this —— That's a very pretty stone in your ring —— give me leave, Sir —— The French have attained a wonderful skill in making compositions of this kind. — Why now, this looks almost as well as a diamond." — „Almost as well, Sir, (said I;) why not altogether? — I'm sure, if you understand any thing of jewels, you must perceive at first sight, that this stone is a real diamond, and that of a very fine water. Take it in your hand, and examine it." — He did so, with some confusion, and returned it; saying, „I ask your pardon: I see it is a true brilliant of immense value." — I imagined his respect for me increased after this enquiry: therefore, to captivate his esteem the more, I told him, I would shew him a seal of composition, engraved after a very valuable antique; upon which I pulled out my watch with a rich gold chain, adorned with three seals set in gold, and an opal ring. —— He viewed each of them with great eagernefs, handled the chain, admired the chased case, and observed, that the whole must have cost him a vast sum of money. I affected indifference, and replied in a carelefs

manner, „Some trifle of sixty or seventy guineas.“ — He stared in my face for some time, and then asked me if I was an Englishman? I answered in the negative. — „You are from Ireland then, Sir, I presume,“ (said he.) I made the same reply. „O! perhaps, (said he) you was born in one of our settlements abroad.“ — I still answered, No. — He seemed very much surprised, and said, he was sure I was not a foreigner. — I made no reply, but left him upon the tenterhooks of impatient uncertainty. — He could not contain his anxiety, but asked pardon for the liberties he had taken, and, to encourage me the more to disclose my situation, displayed his own without reserve. —“ I am (said he) a single man; have a considerable annuity, on which I live according to my own inclination; and make the ends of the year meet very comfortably. —— As I have no estate to leave behind me, I am not troubled with the importunate officiousness of relations, or legacy hunters; and I consider the world as made for me, not me for the world: It is my maxim therefore to enjoy it while I can, and let futurity shift for itself.“— While he thus indulged his own talkative vein, and at the same time, no doubt, expected a retaliation from me, a young man

entered, dressed in black velvet, and an enormous tye-wig, with an air in which natural levity and affected solemnity were so jumbled together, that on the whole he appeared a burlesque on all decorum. This ridiculous oddity danced up to the table at which we sat, and, after a thousand grimaces, asked my friend, by the name of Mr. Medlar, if were not engaged upon businefs. — My companion put on a surly countenance, and replied, „No great businefs, doctor — But, however!" —— „O! then (cried the physician) I must beg your indulgence a little: pray pardon me, gentlemen. — Sir, (said he, addressing himself to me,) your most humble servant: I hope you will forgive me, Sir — I must beg the favour to sit — Sir — Sir, I have something of consequence to impart to my friend, Mr. Medlar —— Sir, I hope you will excuse my freedom in whispering, Sir." — Before I had time to give this complaisant person my permission, Mr. Medlar cried, „I'll have no whispering — if you have any thing to say to me, speak with an audible voice." —— The doctor seemed a little disconcerted at this exclamation, and turning again to me, made a thousand apologies for pretending to make a mystery of any thing, a piece of caution which he said

was owing to his ignorance of my connection with Mr. Medlar; but now he understood I was a friend, he would communicate what he had to say in my hearing. —— He then began, after two or three hems, in this manner: — „You must know, Sir, I am just come from dinner at my Lady Flareit's, (then addressing himself to me,) a lady of quality, Sir, at whose table I have the honor of dining sometimes. —— There was Lady Stately and my Lady Larum, and Mrs. Dainty, and Mifs Biddy Gigler; upon my word a very good-natured young lady, with a pretty fortune, Sir. — There were also my Lord Straddle, Sir John Shrug, and Master Billy Chatter, who is actually a very facetious young gentleman. — So, Sir, her ladyship seeing me excessively fatigued, — for she was the last of fifteen patients (people of distinction, Sir) whom I had visited this forenoon, — insisted upon my staying dinner; though, upon my word, I protest I had no appetite: however, in compliance with her ladyship's request, Sir, I sat down, and the conversation turning on different subjects, among other things, Mr. Chatter asked very earnestly when I saw Mr. Medlar. — I told him I had not had the pleasure of seeing you these nineteen hours and a half; for you may re-

member, Sir, it was nearly about that time; I won't be positive as to a minute." —— "No! (says he;) then I desire you will go to his lodgings immediately after dinner, and see what's the matter with him, for he must certainly be very bad, from having last night eat such a vast quantity of raw oysters." — The crusty gentleman, who, from the solemnity of his delivery, expected something extraordinary, no sooner heard his conclusion, than he started up in a testy humour, crying, "Pshaw, pshaw! d—n your oysters," and walked away after a short compliment of "Your servant, Sir," to me. The doctor got up also, saying, "I vow and protest, upon my word, I am actually amazed," and followed Mr. Medlar to the bar, which was hard by, where he was paying for his coffee. There he whispered so loud, that I could overhear, "Pray, who is this gentleman?" — His friend replied hastily, "I might have known that before now, if it had not been for your impertinent intrusion," and walked off very much disappointed. The ceremonious physician returned immediately, and sat down by me, asking a thousand pardons for leaving me alone; and giving me to understand, that what he had communicated to Mr. Medlar at the bar was an affair of the

last importance, that would admit of no delay. He then called for some coffee, and launched out into the virtues of that berry, which, he said, in cold phlegmatic constitutions, like his, dried up the superfluous moisture, and braced the relaxed nerves. He told me it was utterly unknown to the ancients; and derived its name from an Arabien word, which I might easily perceive by the sound and termination. From this topic he transferred his disquisitions to the word *drink*, which he affirmed, was improperly applied to the taking of coffee, in as much as people did not drink, but sip or sipple, that liquor; that the genuine meaning of drinking is to quench one's thirst, or commit a debauch by swallowing wine; that the Latin word, which conveyed the same idea, was *bibere* or *potare;* and that of the Greek, *pinein* or *poteein*; though he was apt to believe they were differently used on different occasions. For example; to drink a vast quantity, or, as the vulgar exprefs it, to drink an ocean of liquor, was in Latin *potare*, and in Greek *poteein;* and on the other hand to use it moderately, was *bibere* and *pinein*; that this was only a conjecture of his own, which, however, seemed to be supported by the word *bibulous*, which is particularly ap-

plied to the pores of the skin, that can only drink a very small quantity of the circumambient moisture, by reason to the smallnefs of their diameters; whereas, from the verb *poteein*, is derived the substantive *potamos*, which signifies a river or vast quantity of liquor. —— I could not help smiling at this learned and important investigation; and to recommend myself the more to my new acquaintance, whose disposition I was by this time well informed of, I observed, that what he alledged did not, to the best of my remembrance, appear in the writings of the ancients: for Horace uses the words *poto* and *bibo* indifferently for the same purpose, as in the twentieth Ode of his first Book.

Vile potabis modicis sabinum cantharis,——
——Et proelo domitam caleno tu bibes uvam.

That I had never heard of the verb *poteein;* but that *potamos*, *potema*, and *potos*, were derived from *pino*, *poso*, *pepoka*; in consequence of which the Greek poets never use any other word for festal drinking.— Homer describes Nestor at his cups in these words;

Nestora d'ouk elathen jache pinonta *perempes.*

And Anacreon mentions it on the same occasion almost in every page,

Pinonti *de oinon hedun*
Otan pino *ton oinon.*
Opliz' ego de pino.

And in a thousand other places. — The doctor, who, doubtlefs, intended, by his criticism, to give me a high idea of his erudition, was infinitely surprised to find himself schooled by one of my appearance: and, after a considerable pause, cried, „Upon my word! you are in the right, Sir — I find I have not considered this affair with my usual accuracy.“ — Then accosting me in Latin, which he spoke very well, the conversation was maintained full two hours, on a variety of subjects, in that language; and, indeed, he spoke so judiciously, that I was convinced, notwithstanding his whimsical appearance, and attention to trifles, that he was a man of extensive knowledge, especially in books: he looked upon me, as I afterwards understood from Mr. Medlar, as a prodigy in learning, and proposed that very night, if I was not engaged, to introduce me to several young gentlemen of fortune and fashion, with whom he had an appointment at the Bedford coffee-house.

CHAP. XXXXVI.

Wagtail introduces me to a Set of fine Gentlemen, with whom I spend the Evening at a Tavern — Our Conversation — The Characters of my new Companions — The Doctor is roasted — The issue of our Debauch.

I Accepted his offer with pleasure, and we went thither in a hackney coach, where I saw a great number of gay figures fluttering about, most of whom spoke to the doctor with great familiarity. Among the rest stood a groupe of them around the fire, whom I immediately knew to be the very persons who had the night before, by their laughing, alarmed my suspicion of the lady who had put herself under my protection. — They no sooner perceived me enter with Dr. Wagtail (for that was my companion's name) than they tittered and whispered one to another: and I was not a little surprised to find that they were the gentlemen to whose acquaintance he designed to recommend me; for when he observed them together, he told me who they were, and desired to know by what name he should introduce me. I satisfied him in that particular; and he advanced with great gravity, saying,

„Gentlemen, your most obedient — give me leave to introduce my friend Mr. Random to your society.“ Then turning to me, „Mr. Random, this is Mr. Bragwell — Mr. Banter, Sir —— Mr. Chatter — my friend Mr. Slyboot, and Mr. Ranter, Sir.“ —— I saluted each of them in order; and when I came to take Mr. Slyboot by the hand, I perceived him thrust his tongue in his cheek, to the no small entertainment of the company; but I did not think proper to take any notice of it on this occasion. Mr. Ranter too (who I afterwards learned was a player) displayed his talents, by mimicking my air, features, and voice, while he returned my compliment: This feat I should not have been so sensible of, had I not seen him behave in the same manner to my friend Wagtail, when he made up to them at first. — But for once I let him enjoy the fruits of his dexterity without question or controul, resolved, however, to chastise his insolence at a more convenient opportunity. — Mr. Slyboot, guessing I was a stranger, asked if I had been lately in France; and when I answered in the affirmative, inquired if I had seen the Luxembourg gallery? I told him I had considered it more than once with great attention: Upon this a conversation ensued, in which

I discovered him to be a painter — While we were discoursing upon the particulars of this famous performance, I overheard Banter ask Dr. Wagtail, where he had picked up this Mr. Random. — To which question the physician answered, „Upon my word, a mighty pretty sort of a gentleman — a man of fortune, Sir — he has made the grand tour, and seen the best company in Europe, Sir." — „What he told you so? I suppose, (said the other.) I take him to be neither more nor lefs than a French *valet de chambre*," — „Oh! barbarous, barbarous! (cried the doctor:) this is actually, upon my word, altogether unaccountable. — I know all his family perfectly well, Sir; he's of the Randoms of the north —— a very ancient house, Sir, and a distant relation of mine." —— I was extremely nettled at the conjecture of Mr. Banter, and began to entertain a very indifferent opinion of my company in general; but as I might possibly by their means acquire a more extensive and agreeable acquaintance, I determined to bear these little mortifications as long as I could, without injuring the dignity of my character. — After having talked some time on the weather, plays, politics, and other coffee-house subjects, it was proposed that we should

spend the evening at a noted tavern in the neighbourhood, whither we repaired in a body. — Having taken possession of a room, called for French wine, and bespoke supper, the glaſs went about pretty freely, and the characters of my associates opened upon me more and more. — It soon appeared that the doctor was entertained as a butt for the painter and player to exercise their wit upon for the diversion of the company. Mr. Ranter began the game, by asking him what was good for a horseneſs, lowneſs of spirits and indigestion, for he was troubled with all these complaints to a very great degree. — Wagtail immediately undertook to explain the nature of his case, and in a very prolix manner harangued upon prognostics, diagnostics, symptomatics, therapeutics, inanition, and repletion; then calculated the force of the stomach and lungs in their respective operations; ascribed the player's malady to a disorder in these organs, proceeding from hard drinking and vociferation, and prescribed a course of stomachics, with abstinence from venery, wine, and loud speaking, laughing, singing, coughing, sneezing, or hallooing. — „Pah, pah, (cried Ranter, interrupting him,) the remedy is worse than the disease — I wish I knew where to find some tinder-

water." — „Tinderwater! (said the doctor:) upon my word I don't apprehend you, Mr. Ranter." — Water extracted from tinder (replied the other,) an universal specific for all distempers incident to man. It was invented by a learned German monk, who for a valuable consideration imparted the secret to Paracelsus," — „Pardon me, (cried the painter:) it was first used by Solomon, as appears by a Greek manuscript, in his own hand-writing, lately found at the foot of Mount Lebanon, by a peasant who was digging for potatoes." — „Well, (said Wagtail,) in all my vast reading, I never met with such a preparation! neither did I know, till this minute, that Solomon understood Greek, or that potatoes grew in Palestine." — Here Banter interposed, saying, he was surprised that Dr. Wagtail should make the least doubt of Solomon's understanding Greek, when he is represented to us as the wisest and best educated prince in the world; and as for potatoes, they were transplanted thither from Ireland, in the time of the Crusades, by some knights of that country. „I profess (said the doctor) there is nothing more likely — I would actually give a vast sum fot a sight of that manuscript, which must be inestimable — And if I understood

the procefs, would set about it immediately." —— The player assured him, the procefs was very simple — that he must cram a hundred weight of dry tinder into a glafs retort, and, distilling it by the force of animal heat, it would yield half a scruple of insipid water, one drop of which is a full dose. — „Upon my integrity! (exclaimed the credulous doctor,) this is very amazing, and extraordinary! that a *capus mortuum* shall yield any water at all — I must own I have always been an enemy to specifics, which I thought inconsistent with the nature of animal economy; but certainly the authority of Solomon is not to be questioned. — I wonder where I shall find a glafs retort large enough to contain such a vast quantity of tinder, the consumption of which must undoubtedly raise the price of paper — or where shall I find animal heat sufficient even to warm such a mafs." — Slyboot informed him, that he might have a retort blown for him as big as a church; and that the easiest method of raising that vapour by animal heat, would be to place it in the middle of an infirmary for feverish patients, who might lay upon mattrasses around, and in contact with it. — He had no sooner pronounced these words, then Wagtail ex-

claimed in a rapture, „An admirable expedient, as I hope to be saved! I will positively put it in practice.“ — This simplicity of the physician furnished excellent diversion for the company, who, in their turns, sneered at him in ironical compliments, which his vanity swallowed as the genuine sentiments of their hearts. — Mr. Chatter, impatient of so long a silence, now broke out, and entertained us with a catalogue of all the people who danced at the last Hampstead assembly, with a most circumstantial account of the drefs and ornaments of each, from the lappets of the ladies, to the shoe buckles of the men; concluding with telling Bragwell, that his Melinda was there, and seemed to mifs him; and soliciting his company at the next occasion of that kind. —— „No, no, damme, (said Bragwell,) I have something else to mind than dangling after a parcel of giddy-headed girls; besides, you know my temper is so unruly, that I am apt to involve myself in scrapes when a woman is concerned. The last time I was there, I had an affair with Tom Trippet.“ — „O! I remember that (cried Banter:) you lugged out before the ladies; and I commend you for so doing, because you had an opportunity of shewing your manhood without running any risk.“ —

„Risk! (said the other, with a fierce countenance.) Damn my blood! I fear no risks. I an't afraid of lugging out against any man that wears a head, damme! 'Tis well known I have drawn blood more than once, and lost some too; but what does that signify?“ The player begged this champion to employ him as his second, the next time he intended to kill, for he wanted to see a man die of a stab, that he might know how to act such a part the more naturally on the stage. — „Die! (replied the hero.) No, by God! I know better things than to incur the verdict of a Middlesex jury — I should look upon my fencing master to be an ignorant son of a bitch, if he had not taught me to prick any part of my antagonist's body, that I please to disable.“ — „Oho! (cried Slyboot,) if that be the case, I have a favour to ask. You must know I am employed to paint a Jesus on the crofs; and my purpose is to represent him at that point of time when the spear is thrust into his side. — Now I should be glad you would, in my presence, pink some impertinent fellow into convulsions, without endangering his life, that I may have an opportunity of taking a good clever agony from nature. — The doctor will direct you where to enter, and how far to go: but pray let it be

as near the left side as possible." Wagtail, who took this proposal seriously, observed, that it would be a very difficult matter to penetrate into the left side of the thorax, without hurting the heart, and of consequence killing the patient; but he believed it was possible for a man of a very nice hand, and exact knowledge of anatomy, to wound the diaphragma somewhere about the skirts, which might induce a singultus, without being attended with death; that he was ready to demonstrate the insertion of the muscle to Mr. Bragwell; but desired to have no concern with the experiment, which might essentially prejudice his reputation, in case of a miscarriage. — Bragwell was as much imposed upon by the painter's waggery as the doctor, and declined engaging in the affair, saying, he had a very great regard for Mr. Slyboot, but had laid it down as a maxim, never to fight, except when his honour was engaged. — A thousand jokes of this kind were uttered: the wine circulated, supper was served in, we ate heartily, returned to the bottle; Bragwell became noisy and troublesome, Banter grew more and more severe, Ranter rehearsed, Slyboot made faces at the whole company, I sung French catches, and Chatter kissed me with great

affection; while the doctor, with a woeful countenance, sat silent like a disciple of Pythagoras. — At length, it was proposed by Bragwell, that we should scour the hundreds, sweat the constable, maul the watch, and then reel soberly to bed.

While we deliberated on this expedition, the waiter came into the room, and asked for Dr. Wagtail. When he understood he was present, he told him there was a lady below to enquire for him; at which message the physician started from his melancholy contemplation, and, with a look of extreme confusion, assured the company, he could not possibly be the person wanted, for he had no connexion with any lady whatever, and bade the drawer tell her so. — „For shame! (cried Banter:) would you be so impolite as to refuse the lady a hearing? perhaps she comes for a consultation. — It must be some extraordinary affair that brings a lady to a tavern at this time o'night. — Mr. Ranter, pray do the doctor's baisemains to the lady, and lead her hither.“ — The player immediately staggered out, and returned, leading in, with much ceremony, a tall strapping wench, whose appearance proclamed her occupation. We received her with the utmost solemnity, and with a good deal of intreaty

she was persuaded to sit, when a profound silence ensued, during which she fixed her eyes with a disconsolate look upon the doctor, who was utterly confounded at her behaviour, and returned her melancholy four-fold: at length, after a good many piteous sighs, she wiped her eyes, and accosted him thus: „What! not one word of comfort? Will nothing soften that stony heart of thine? Not all my tears! Not all my affliction! Not the inevitable ruin thou hast brought upon me! Where are thy vows, thou faithlefs perjured man? Hast thou no honour? — no conscience? — no remorse, for thy perfidious conduct towards me? Answer me, wilt thou at last do me justice, or must I have recourse to heaven or hell for my revenge!" — If poor Wagtail was amazed before she spoke, what must his confusion be on hearing this addrefs! His natural palenefs changed into a ghastly clay colour, his eyes rolled, his lip trempled, and he answered, in an accent not to be described, —— „Upon my word, honour, and salvation! Madam, you are actually mistaken in my person. — I have a most particular veneration for your sex, and am actually incapable of injuring any lady in the smallest degree, Madam: — Besides, Madam, to the best of my recollection, I never had the honour

of seeing you before, as I hope to be saved, Madam!" — „How, traitor! (cried she,) dost thou disown me then? — Mistaken! no, too well I know that fair bewitching face! too well I know that false enchanting tongue! — Alas! gentlemen, since the villain compels me, by his unkindnefs, to expose myself and him, know that this betrayer, under the specious pretence of honourable addresses, won my heart, and taking advantage of his conquest, robbed me of my virgin treasure, and afterwards abandoned me to my fate! I am now four month gone with child by him, turned out of doors by my relations, and left a prey to misery and want! Yes, thou barbarian, (said she, turning to Wagtail,) thou tyger, thou succubus! too well thou knowest my situation — but I will tear out thy faithlefs heart, and deliver the world from such a monster." — So saying, she sprung forward at the doctor, who, with incredible agility, jumped over the table, and ran behind Bragwell, while the rest of us endeavoured to appease the furious heroine. — Although every body in the company affected the utmost surprise, I could easily perceive it was a scheme concerted among them to produce diversion at the doctor's expence; and being under no concern about the consequence, I

entered into the confederacy, and enjoyed the distreſs of Wagtail, who, with tears in his eyes, begged the protection of the company, declaring himself as innocent of the crime laid to his charge, as the foetus in utero: and hinting, at the same time, that nature had not put it in his power to be guilty of such a trespaſs — „Nature! (cried the lady;) there was no nature in the case — he abused me by the help of charms and spells; else how is it possible that any woman could have listened to the addresses of such a scare-crow? — Were these owlish eyes made for ogling; that carrion complexion to be admired; or that mouth, like a horse-shoe, to be kissed? No, no; you owe your succeſs to your philtres, to your drugs and incantations; and not to your natural talents, which are in every respect mean and contemptible," — The doctor now thought he had got an opportunity of vindicating himself effectually, and desired the complainant to compose herself but for half an hour, in which he undertook to prove the absurdity of believing in the power of incantations, which were only idle dreams of ignorance and superstition. He accordingly pronounced a very learned discourse upon the nature of ideas, the powers and independence of the mind, the properties of stimulating me-

dicines, the difference between a pronenefs to venery, which many simples would create, and a passion limited to one object, which can only be the result of sense and reflection; and concluded with a pathetic remonstrance, setting forth his unhappinefs in being persecuted with the resentment of a lady whom he had never injured, nor even seen before that occasion, and whose faculties were, in all likelihood, so much impaired by her misfortunes, that an innocent person was in danger of being ruined by her disorder. — He had no sooner finished his harangue, than the forlorn princefs renewed her lamentations, and cautioned the company against his eloquence, which, she said, was able to biafs the most impartial bench in Christendom. —— Bander advised him to espouse her immediately, as the only means to save his reputation, and offered to accompany him to the Fleet for that purpose; but Slyboot proposed that a father should be purchased for the child, and a comfortable alimony settled on the mother. Ranter promised to adopt the infant *gratis*. Wagtail was ready to worship him for his generosity; and though he persisted in protesting his innocence, condescended to every thing rather than his unblemished character should be called in question. The lady rejected the proposal, and insisted on matrimony. Bragwell took up the cudgels for the doctor, and undertook to rid him of her importunity for half a guinea; upon which Wagtail, with great eagernefs, pulled out his purse, and put it into the hand of his friend, who taking half

a piece out of it, gave it to the plaintiff, and bade her thank God for her good fortune. When she had received this bounty, she affected to weep, and begged, since the physician had renounced her, he would at least vouchsafe her a parting kifs. This he was prevailed upon to grant, with great reluctance, and went up with his usual solemnity to salute her; when she laid old of his cheek with her teeth, and held fast, while he roared with anguish, to the unspeakable diversion of all present. When she thought proper to release him, she dropped a low curtesy to the company, and quitted the room, leaving the doctor in the utmost horror, not so much on account of the pain, as the apprehension of the consequence of the bite; for by this time he was convinced of her being mad. Banter prescribed the actual cautery, and put the poker in the fire to be heated, in order to sear the place. — The player was of opinion that Bragwell should scoop out the part affected with the point of his sword; but the painter prevented both these dreadful operations, by recommending a balsam he had in his pocket, which never failed to cure the bite of a mad dog: So saying, he pulled out a small bladder of black paint; with which he instantly anointed not only the sore, but the greatest part of the patient's face, and left it in a frightful condition. — In short, the poor creature was so harrassed with fear and vexation, that I pitied him extremely, and sent him home in a chair, contrary to the inclination of every body present.

This freedom of mine gave umbrage to Bragwell, who testified his displeasure, by swearing a few threats, without making application, which being perceived by Slyboot, who sat by me, he, with a view of promoting a quarrel, whispered to me, that he thought Bragwell used me very ill; but every man was the best judge of his own affairs. — I answered aloud, that I would neither suffer Mr. Bragwell nor him to use me ill with impunity; and that I stood in no need of his counsel in regard to the regulation of my conduct. —— He thought proper to ask a thousand pardons, and assure me, he meant no offence; while Bragwell feigned himself asleep, that he might not be obliged to take notice of what passed. — But the player, who had more animal spirits, and lefs discretion, than Slyboot, unwilling to let the affair rest where he had dropt it, jogged Mr. Bragwell, and told him softly, that I called him names, and threatened to cudgel him. — This particular I understood by his starting up, and crying, „Blood and wounds! you lie — No man durst treat me so ignominiously- — Mr. Random, did you call me names, and threaten to drub me?" I denied the imputation, and proposed to punish the scoundrel who endeavoured to foment disturbance in the company. Bragwell signified his approbation, and drew his sword: I did the same, and accosted the actor in these words, „Lookee, Mr. Ranter, I know you possefs all the mimickry and mischievous qualities of an ape, because I have observed you

put them all in practice more than once to-night, on me and others; now I want to see if you resemble one in nimblenefs also; therefore I desire you to leap over this sword without hesitation-" — So saying, I held it parallel to the horizon, at the distance of about three feet from the floor, and called, „Once—twice—thrice, and away;" —but, instead of complying with my command, he snatched his hat and hanger, and assuming the looks, swagger, and phrase of Pistol, burst out in the following exclamation: „Ha! must I then perform inglorious prank of sylvan ape in mountain forest caught! Death rock me asleep, abridge my doleful days, and lay my hand in fury's lap. — Have we not Hiren here?" — This buffoonery did not answer his expectation, for by this time the company was bent on seeing him in a new character. Mr. Banter desired me to hold my sword a foot or two higher, that he might have an opportunity of exerting himself. — The painter told him, if he performed well, he would recommend him as a vaulter to the proprietors of Sadler's-wells; and Bragwell, crying, „Leap for the king," applied the point of his sword to the player's posteriors, with such succefs, that he sprung over in a trice, and finding the door unguarded, vanished in a twinkling; glad, no doubt, of having paid his share of the reckoning so easily.

It being now near two o'clock in the morning, we discharged the bill, and sallied out into the street. — The painter slunk away without taking his leave. Billy Chat-

ter, being unable to speak or stand, was sent to a bagnio; and Banter and I accompanied Bragwell to Moll King's coffee-house, where, after he had kicked half a dozen of hungry whores, we left him asleep on a bench, and directed our course towards Charing-Crofs, near which place both he and I lodged.

The natural drynefs of my companion being overcome by liquor, he honoured me by the way with many compliments and professions of friendship, for which I made suitable acknowledgments, and told him, I thought myself happy in having, by my behaviour, removed the unfavourable opinion he entertained of me at first sight. — He was surprised at this declaration, and begged me to explain myself: Upon which I mentioned what I had over-heard him say of me to Wagtail in the coffee-house. —— He laughed, and made an apology for his freedom, assuring me, that my appearance had very much prepossessed him in my favour; and what he said, was only intended as a joke on the doctor's solemnity. —— I was highly pleased at being undeceived in this particular, and not a little proud of the good opinion of this wit, who shook me by the hand at parting, and promised to meet me next day at the ordinary.